

THE TIMES Tomorrow

It's my party
In the first of a series, Peter Shore, would-be Labour leader, tells of the Labour Party he would like to see

Open invitation
In the Times Guide to the British Open, John Hennessy gives an expert view of the course, the holes and the players

Fancy dress
Suzy Menkes takes a look at the fashionable side of a masquerade ball and the animal appeal of leopard skin

House warming
Horizons reports on how soon it will be possible to work from your living room and how a British whizz-kid is taking on the Japanese

No picnic
Stephen Taylor on the people of Matabeleland caught between the Government, the Army and the guerrillas

Chile jails leader of opposition

The president and two other leaders of Chile's largest opposition party, the Christian Democrats, have been jailed on suspicion of organizing a protest against the military regime.

Scores of party activists shouted "Liberty, liberty" in the Supreme Court building as the three were led to an armoured van.

US action on interest rates

The US Federal Reserve Board is expected to act today to raise interest rates, thus intensifying its clash with President Reagan over monetary policy.

Nurses angry

Anger is mounting among nurses over poor and insecure hostels with few basic facilities. But, as the health service contemplates "fresh cuts", they see little sign of improvement.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Renewed attempts will be made today by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service to break the deadlock in the dispute at the *Financial Times* which has prevented publication for nearly six weeks.

Time problem

A United Nations attempt to piece together an agreement on Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan is being held up because the Russians have yet to agree on a time frame.

Divorce toll

The divorce rate in the Soviet Union has reached almost a million a year, a sociologist reports in *Pravda*. He gives a warning that marriage is in danger of dying out.

War casualties

World Wildlife Fund surveys have found that large numbers of sea creatures and birds have died in the Gulf since Iranian offshore wells began spilling oil in February.

Trade talks

The growing rift between the United States and Europe over steel imports is expected to dominate discussions between leading trading nations when their ministers meet at Leeds Castle, Kent, this week.

Tour leader

Sean Kelly yesterday became the first Irish cyclist for 20 years to take the overall lead in the Tour de France. Another Irishman, Stephen Roche, took the white jersey as best newcomer.

Leader page 11

Letters: On death penalty, from Sir Arthur Peterson, and others; divorce, from Mr J. Eckelaar and others

Leading articles: Iran-Iraq war; Remarriage of divorcees; Chad

Features, pages 8,9,10

Teddy Taylor MP puts the case for capital punishment - and Anne Sofer reflects on its effect on Tory freedom of thought; Bernard Levin at the unions' graveside; finding a successor to Hastings Banda. Spectrum: the return of Omar Sharif. Modern Times: a horse, a horse...

Obituary, page 12

Bishop of Bradford; Mr Keith Wickenden

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Battle in Cabinet likely as Lawson plans more cuts

By Philip Webster, Political reporter

A serious confrontation in Cabinet later this month between Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and ministers in charge of spending departments appears inevitable as the disclosure of a downward revision of the published public expenditure target for 1984-85 is in prospect.

The Cabinet is likely to be told that cuts to take public expenditure below the levels planned for next year are essential if its strategy of lower taxes and lower interest rates is to be maintained.

Mr Lawson last week introduced an emergency £1,000m package of spending and unspecified state sales in an attempt to put this year's expenditure plans back on course. The speed at which he conducted the operation has angered some of his colleagues.

The opening bids from the spending departments for 1984-85 are expected to be some £5,000m over the £126,400m envisaged in the February White Paper on public expenditure. However, it has now emerged that Mr Lawson may be seeking a reduction to that February projection.

Prior could sway vote on hanging for terrorists

By Philip Webster, Political reporter

A narrow majority against the reintroduction of capital punishment is still expected in Wednesday's Commons debate by supporters and opponents of a return to the death penalty.

The strong opposition voiced by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, at the weekend to hanging for terrorist murder, one of the categories on which MPs will be voting separately, could have an important influence on the outcome of that vote, MPs believe.

But, it was felt yesterday, the powerful appeal of Mr Prior, who would have to exercise in Northern Ireland the same functions as the Home Secretary in England and Wales in considering whether reprieves against hanging should be granted, could sway some of the uncommitted MPs, thought to number about 20.

Mr Prior, who had told the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of his intention to speak out, said that his judgment was that the return of capital punishment would make it more difficult to bring terrorists to justice, strengthen their support and destabilize society in the province.

Some ministers are still sceptical over the manner in which they feel Mr Lawson "bounced" them into agreeing to last week's package by informing them of his plans at very short notice. Their backbench colleagues believe that they will be better prepared next time.

One of the reasons behind the hints of a cut in the 1984-85 planned total, are forecasts of reductions in tax revenues, mainly the yield from value-added tax (VAT), because inflation is lower than was expected when those plans were formulated. It was said in Whitehall yesterday that that factor could be offset to some extent if the economy grows at a rate faster than forecast.

The Treasury does not deny that difficult decisions will have to be taken. Conservative "wets" are delighted that Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, and possibly Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, whose departments were hit by last week's package, appear likely to line up against the Treasury with Mr Peter Walker and Mr James Prior, who have opposed largescale spending cuts in the past.

Mr Heseltine, in particular, was said by MPs to be angry at not being told about Mr Lawson's plans before he published his defence White Paper. He is determined to fight his department's corner against any Treasury suggestion that the commitment to increase

defence spending by 3 per cent a year should be shelved.

After the Cabinet has agreed a broad approach to spending next year, the detailed arguments will begin with a series of "bilateral" meetings during the summer and autumn between the individual spending ministers and Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Even before it became apparent that Mr Lawson might want to revise the overall total, the talks had promised to be tough. Quite apart from the battle over the 1984-85 spending target, MPs are still expecting further "readjustments" this autumn.

Although Mr Lawson is said to regard last week's corrective measures as "adequate", the Treasury figures apparently show public borrowing at some £3,000m above the Budget figure of £2,200m.

There are growing signs of anxiety among the Conservative "wets" at the prospect of further cuts. Although there was no coordination of effort, a large number of Tory MPs spoke during the Queen's Speech debate about the need for the Government to make the reduction of unemployment a higher priority even than the reduction of inflation.

Defecting Pole swims to freedom from yacht

Kalmar, Sweden (AP) A Polish engineer made a dramatic defection yesterday by jumping overboard from a yacht passing through the Strait of Kalmar on Sweden's east coast, the police reported. The Pole and Swedish witnesses said he was shot at from the yacht as he swam ashore.

Police would not confirm the shooting but said the defection took place at Revs Udde, about 10 miles north of Kalmar. The Pole was helped ashore by Swedish witnesses.

Eye witnesses said they heard what sounded like shots from a pistol or starting gun from the yacht, and the defector told a radio reporter: "The captain shot at me when I swam to Sweden." He jumped overboard with a five-man crew, but had no permit to visit Sweden, but the engineer, secretly, carried his passport.

The man, whose age was not given but who seemed to be in his thirties, said he was an electro-engineer who was unable to get a job in Poland because he was a member of Solidarity. He said he left his wife in Poland and sought political asylum in Sweden.

He had apparently planned his escape thoroughly. He joined a yachting society and boarded the yacht which left the Gdansk area on July 5 for a pleasure trip to Swedish waters with a five-man crew. Waters with a five-man crew, but had no permit to visit Sweden, but the engineer, secretly, carried his passport.

City cash brings new hope for home loans

By Our Financial Staff

Mortgage queues could be cut in the next few months after the dramatic success of the largest building societies in tapping a new source of funds.

Six of the best known names, Abbey National, Woolwich, Halifax, Anglia, Nationwide and Alliance, have shown the way, in the wake of changes in the law contained in this year's Finance Act. These changes made it viable for the first time for them to borrow money in the City of London, rather than having to rely solely on depositors' savings.

In the eight weeks since then, the six societies between them have borrowed more than £200m. In contrast, the entire building society movement took only £19m in May from small savers, its traditional source of funds.

The success of the societies in raising this amount of money so quickly owes much to backing for their efforts provided by the Bank of England. This is interpreted in the City as indicating that the Prime Minister is strongly opposed to any further increase in the mortgage rate or any lengthening of mortgage queues.

The Bank has discreetly impressed on the City the need for it to provide societies with funds to help them meet their commitments.

The success of these money-raising efforts is sure to lead to other societies seeking funds in this market, and if the funds continue to be available at present rates of interest - under 10 per cent last week - they could raise enough between them to satisfy mortgage demand without having further to raise rates to depositors.

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Peace-above-all accord renewed

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Switzerland's main unions have just voted for a pay cut so that they can enjoy a cut in hours.

In 1986 the working week will come down from 42 hours to 41; and in 1988 there will be a further hour's reduction to 40. Each time the reduction will be accompanied by a cut in pay of 1.2 per cent.

The decision to accept these proposals from the country's employers was taken at a weekend conference of the Metal Working and Watch Industry Federation, which covers the country's main unions, by a vote of 139 to 94.

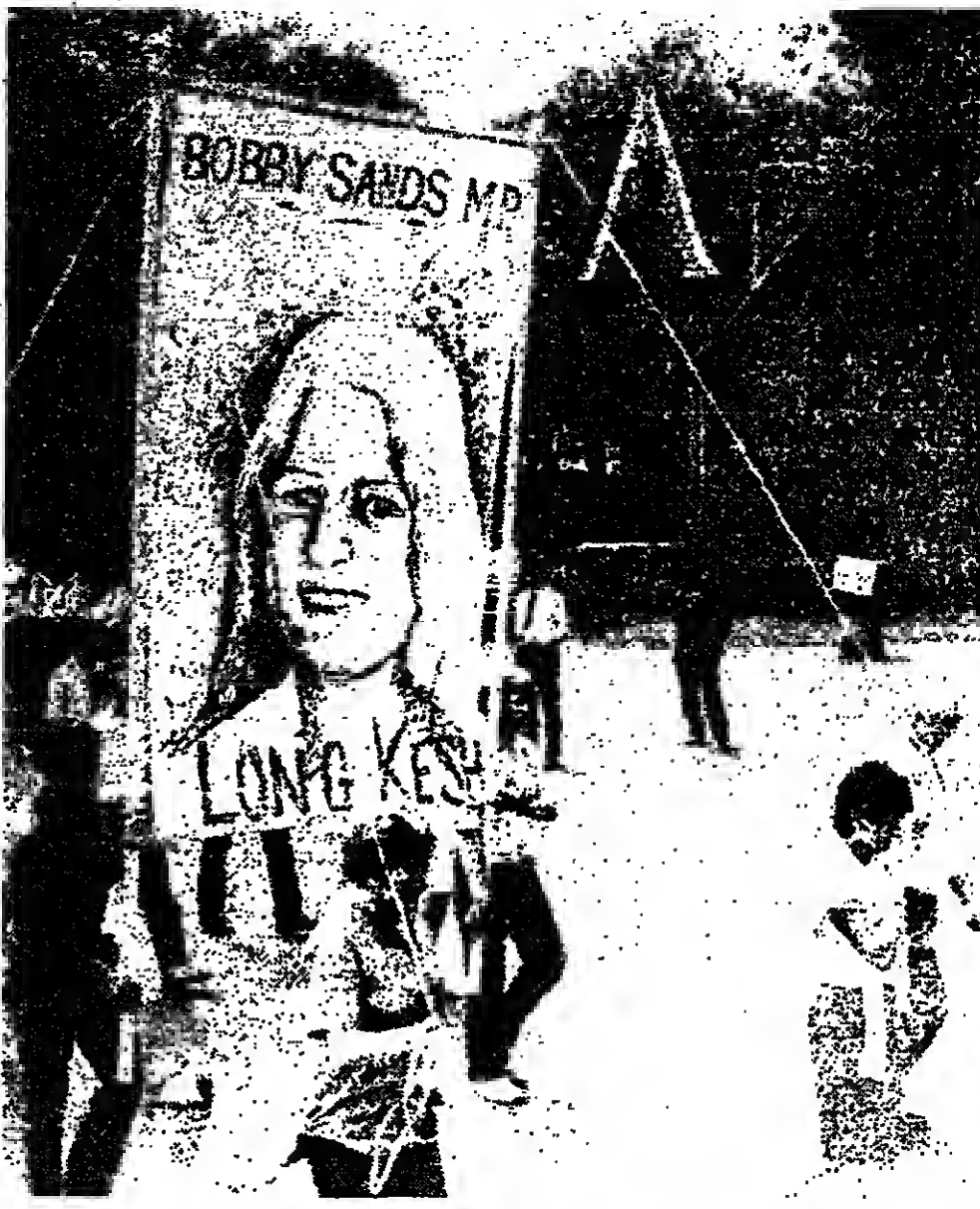
Until the weekend, union opinion seemed to be running strongly in favour of rejecting what is in effect a five-year contract. However, when it became clear that the employers, with many companies facing hard times, would go no further, leaders of the federation persuaded individual unions to accept.

What was at stake was a unique peace-above-everything agreement between the two sides of industry that has lasted since 1937. A recent opinion poll cited 72 per cent of the population as supporting the peace concept, with unemployment having risen to 30,000 - under one per cent.

The peace pact, known as the Labour Peace Accords, are the creation of Mr Konrad Illg, a former Marxist, who, when president of the unions' federation in 1937, saw how the Nazis and Fascists had crushed German and Italian unions. He came to the conclusion that concepts of class struggle were imposing an emotional mental block on both unions and employers, causing confrontation liable to lead to a more authoritarian regime.

He proposed successfully to the employers that the two sides should renounce strikes and lockouts as industrial weapons and, instead, "resolve all disputes by pragmatic negotiations in sincerity and good faith". The agreement spread to other industries and has since become the basis of Switzerland's prosperity. The renewal of the accord this weekend was for the tenth time.

The latest contract also includes a fifth week's holiday for young workers.



Sinn Fein supporters march past Lord Mountbatten's former holiday home yesterday.

Villagers protest at Sands rally

From Richard Ford, Mullaghmore, co Sligo

In a tiny Irish fishing village yesterday 1,500 supporters of the Provisional IRA commemorated Robert Sands, the hunger striker, only yards from where Lord Mountbatten of Burma died in a bomb explosion four years ago.

But as youths dressed in khaki uniform chanted "IRA, IRA, up the IRA" outside the gates leading to Classiebawn Castle, where the Mountbatten family spent their summer holiday, traders and local people in Mullaghmore, co Sligo, showed their anger at the decision to hold the rally in the village.

Holidaymakers stayed away from the beautiful bay, which should have been experiencing its busiest weekend of the holiday season: all shops and hotels closed; no milk or newspapers were brought into the village and, instead of the 5,000 to 10,000 people who would normally have crowded the beach, only about 150 were on it, as the rally began.

The organizers also faced some embarrassment when one local independent councillor accused the IRA of fanning the flames of sectarianism and glamorizing militarism. This led to show hand-clapping, pro-IRA chants and shouts of "in your bloodsucker Mountbatten" from an angry crowd, which in the end forced him to abandon his speech.

Four local councillors, the uncle of a man acquitted of murdering Lord Mountbatten and Mr Owen Carron, formerly MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, defended their right to hold the rally in Mullaghmore, honoured the 10 hunger strikers who died ten years ago and called on Britain to get out of Ireland.

One hotel owner said that a coach party of 47 had cancelled their five-day stay. "They can have the village, but they will never come here again. They will never buy another thing here. They are not wanted. Lord Mountbatten gave a lot of employment to people here. We have no quarrel with anyone, but look at the effect it has had on the village when people had forgotten all about it," he said.

In the village, the mothers of Robert Sands and Patsy O'Hara, another hunger striker, sat on a platform listening to speakers praising their fast to death and defending the struggle against the British Army.

Mr Carron got the loudest cheer when he said that the hunger strikers had been doing what Irishmen had done for 800 years - demanding their freedom.

The rally had been criticized by the Irish Government, leading Fianna Fail politicians, the local Roman Catholic bishop and Unionist politicians.

Arafat gets invitation to Moscow for talks

Rome (Reuters) - Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, will visit Moscow this week to discuss the split in the PLO and his quarrel with Syria, a close aide said yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at Rome airport on his way from Tunis to East Berlin, Mr Salah Khalaf said that Mr Fawzi Kaddumi, the PLO "foreign minister", would go to Moscow to prepare the visit. The invitation was delivered to Mr Arafat by the Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Tunis.

Mr Khalaf also known as Abu Iyad and usually regarded as Mr Arafat's number two in the Fatah guerrilla group, said the Soviet invitation had come at the right moment. A commission set up by the PLO executive committee to mediate with Syria and dissident groups, who have rebelled against Mr Arafat's leadership, had achieved nothing.

He said that the dissident movement had been created with Syrian and Libyan support. "Without Syrian support this problem would not exist."

"Inside any party there are constructive differences, and requests for improvement, but you cannot use arms to formulate requests", he added.

In Tunis, Palestinian sources said that Mr Kaddumi would arrive in Moscow today and have talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The Palestinian news agency, Wafa, said that Mr Kaddumi and Mr Abu Mazen and Mr Yasser Rabbo, both PLO executive committee members, would discuss recent events on the Palestinian scene and "American aggression" against the PLO.



Mr Arafat: Seeking Soviet backing.

Peking talks upset by Hongkong slip

From David Bonavia and Richard Hughes, Hongkong

Tomorrow's Anglo-Chinese talks in Peking on Hongkong will get off in a tricky start following China's slap on the wrist to Sir Edward Youde, the governor of Hongkong, for saying that he represented the British-ruled territory.

Sir Edward's remark was made in answer to a question at a press conference, and seems to have been a tactical slip. Both Sir Edward and the Foreign Office are well aware that China considers the talks to be bilateral, not trilateral.

In Chinese eyes no British governor may represent 5.5 million Chinese people in their relations with the People's Republic.

The talks, expected to last only one day, will formally present Sir Edward as a member of the British delegation, a point which China emphasizes. Peking is prickly about any suggestion that Britain has a responsibility towards the people of Hongkong, considering this an interference in China's "internal affairs".

Mr Peter Tsao, the director of the Hongkong Government information services, has been refused a visa to accompany Sir Edward to Peking. He was clearly astonished at the decision but declined to comment, referring questions to the New China news agency, which represents Peking in Hongkong, and also refused to comment.

Three die in holiday accidents

By Staff Reporters

Three people died in leisure accidents at the weekend as hot weather continued in bring out the crowds.

A boy aged 12, Craig Bennett, of Aberfeldy, died in hospital yesterday after he fell and hit his head while getting off a ride at a North Wales seaside funfair.

Christopher Seaman, aged eight, was drowned in a boating accident near his home at Holy Loch, Strathclyde on Saturday.

James Manning, aged 18, became entangled in thick weeds while swimming in a reservoir at Cransley, Northants, on Saturday and drowned despite the efforts of friends to save him.

While most of Britain enjoyed one of the hottest days of the year yesterday with temperatures into the 80s, fog and storms hit other parts of the country, including Cornwall, Ireland and South Wales.

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Tebbit aims new union proposals at heart of unions' organization

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A White Paper containing the Government's latest proposals for labour law reforms will be published tomorrow against a background of recent union conference declarations that the new laws would be ignored.

The proposals, drawn up by Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, will include provisions for ballots of union members for the election of executives, ballots before strikes are called, and periodic votes among union members on whether political funds should be maintained.

Details of tomorrow's White Paper will have a critical influence on the General Council when it debates later this month whether to respond to the Government's overtures for discussions on several issues. Those include proposals to make it easier for members to contract out of paying the political levy and the possibility of restricting strikes in essential services.

Union opposition to the proposals will also centre on what they see as attempts to interfere with their internal

mechanisms. Last week the annual conferences of two influential unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Mineworkers made clear that they would not cooperate with the laws even if that led to fines or imprisonment.

Unions have been guided in the past by the apparent reluctance of employers to use the 1980 and 1982 Acts to seek damages when industrial action, which could have been unlawful, was taking place. But the latest tranche of proposals is aimed at the union's organization.

Mr Tebbit is proposing that union executives should have to seek reelection every five years through individual secret ballots. A similar kind of ballot will have to be laid before an executive is able to call strike action. Failure to comply with pre-strike ballots could leave unions open to actions for civil damages by employers.

The third strand of the White Paper is expected to be compulsory ballots, probably every 10 years, among union members

on whether their union should continue to maintain a political fund. That will be a compromise by the Government from its original intention to introduce legislation to make members contract in to paying the political levy rather than the present system of contracting out.

There are likely to be bitter divisions within the TUC with the publication of these latest proposals. Those union leaders who favour talking to the Government will be accused by their more militant colleagues of holding discussions with the "executioner".

The unions will be reluctant to modify their rules, and traditional custom and practice. The transport workers' conference last week made clear that it would continue "business as usual" in spite of labour legislation.

The union, like the miners, is committed to non-payment of fines, which could be as high as £250,000. Further, Mr Mostyn Evans, the TGU general secretary, said that he was prepared, if necessary, to go to jail to oppose the laws.



Sir Frank Price, chairman of the British Waterways Board, on the bank of the Regent's Canal in London. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Canal system champion stays

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

When Sir Frank Price became chairman of the British Waterways Board in 1968 one of his first tasks was to approve the closure of more than 10 miles of the Ashton and Park Forest canal, near Manchester. Research and consultation were complete: Sir Frank's only role was to sign.

"I walked the canal and said it must be a mistake. I pleaded for more time and now the canal is something all the local authorities are very proud of because it is being used as a leisure waterway," he said yesterday.

Sir Frank, who will be 62 this month, is the longest-serving chairman of a nationalized

industry. He was to have stepped down last month, but rejected business offers so that he could stay with the board at least until the end of the year.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, asked Sir Frank to stay to give the Government time to find a suitable successor.

The heyday of commercial canals in Britain was brought to a rapid end by the growth of railway transport. Many waterways which had once carried huge loads of coal, metals and other industrial goods were derelict before the death of Queen Victoria.

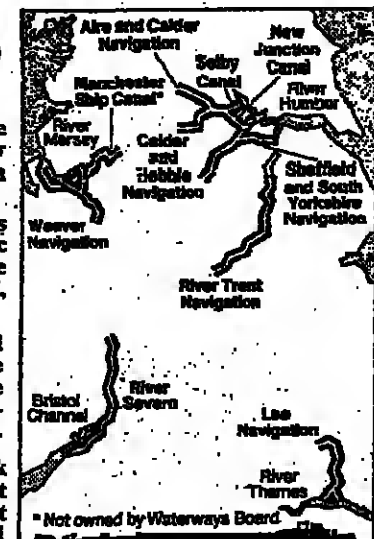
By the time Sir Frank arrived, the voluntary enthusiasts who wanted to save much

of what remained of the commercial canal network for leisure use saw the board as a principal agent of destruction.

"The Inland Waterways Association was antagonistic towards the board, and the board virtually ignored them," Sir Frank explained.

"I recognized that we would have more and more leisure time as a nation, and that we would need all of the waterways that we had, and more."

"When I came in, I think that on the commercial side it had been decided there was no future for the waterways. I have achieved confidence among people to invest in the system."



Still working: Britain's commercial waterways.

Blaze hero may get award

Mr Jeff Naylor, a fireman, who was dragged from a blazing house as he tried to rescue a girl aged 10, died yesterday three months later. Mr Naylor, aged 32, father of two, died without knowing that the girl, Sylvia Smith, had died herself, in spite of his efforts.

Now Mr Naylor is being considered for a posthumous bravery award for his heroism at the fire in Broomhill Walk, Keighley, West Yorkshire, in April. "He was the bravest man I have ever seen". The girl's mother, Mrs Lynda Smith, aged 29, said last night: "Mrs Smith, who lost two of her five children in the fire, said at her new home in Elmwood Road, Keighley: "The fire engine did not even have time to stop before he was in through the door. He just went straight in, regardless of the flames lashing out of the front room." Mr Naylor fought his way up the blazing stairs, snatching the child from her bedroom.

Moscow mayor is jostled

Angry young Jewish demonstrators, some wearing prison camp clothing, jostled and shouted at the Mayor of Moscow yesterday as he arrived for a London lunch with representatives of the Greater London Council.

More than 20 protesters chanting "Free Soviet Jewry", encircled Mr Vladimir Frolov, as he made his way through the courtyard of the Dickens Inn at St Katharine's Dock.

Gang war man shot dead

Detectives began house-to-house inquiries yesterday in the hunt for the killer of Henry Botton, a dealer aged 63, who was shot in the throat when he answered the door at his house in Shooters Hill, London, on Saturday night.

Mr Botton was involved in the Kray-Richardson gang warfare in the 1960s and was jailed for five years in 1966 for his part in an affray at Mr Smith's Club in Cardiff.

'Microchip' baby

The "micro chip" baby born at Hammersmith Hospital, on Friday, was named Amanda yesterday. She was born using the test-tube method and a computer to rate her chances after her parents, Beth and Roger Hinnett, spent seven years trying to have a baby.

NUR delays action on strike-breakers

By Our Labour Correspondent

Leaders of the largest rail union decided how to deal with hundreds of members who left the union over disciplinary sanctions imposed for strike-breaking, have delayed taking final action until a special conference in September.

The question of the dissenting members of the National Union of Railwaymen was due to be resolved at its annual conference in Bridlington, which ended on Friday, but the 77 delegates could not agree.

The union's executive will have to meet demands that the 12,000 members who worked during the two-day national strike in June last year should be punished while trying to prevent more defections. Several hundred have already left to form the breakaway Association of Professional Railway Staff.

Mr James Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, has been eager to heal wounds left by the strike and the departure of his predecessor, Mr Sidney Weighell, but his original suggestion for an amnesty was not put to last week's closed sessions because it was clear it would be rejected.

However, a compromise is emerging under which members who "blacklegged" and were banned from holding union

office for five years will have that disqualified removed and officials who were banned from office for life will have their "sentence" cut.

The 12,000 were also denied union benefits, such as some forms of legal representation and access to union goods, including ties and diaries for five years. That is likely to be reduced to 18 months.

Final rulings at the special conference in London will coincide with a move to increase subscriptions to cope with the fall in NUR membership, from 165,000 to about 150,000 over the past 12 months.

The private sessions also saw the first big defeat for Mr Knapp. He had argued to be allowed flexibility to negotiate with British Rail on productivity, but delegates, angered by the loss of more than 20,000 jobs over the past two years, blocked any new arrangements. BR wants to remove guards from freight and some passenger trains.

Union officials fear that 10,000 jobs could be threatened by the introduction of one-man operations on trains and argue that their appeals to the Government for more investment have not been listened to, despite their belief that they have delivered on productivity

Million children in poverty, says Low Pay Unit

More than a million children are in poverty or close to it, because of parental low wages, a report says today. A total of 1,150,000 children live in families where the breadwinner earns less than 40 per cent above the supplementary benefit level, according to a study by the Low Pay Unit.

The report, *Poverty at Work*, says it is based on official statistics, and challenges the Government's assertion that low pay is not a main cause of poverty.

It says more than 11,500,000 people living in nearly seven million families, earned no more than 40 per cent above the supplementary benefit level.

"Despite the widespread belief that most of the low-paid are married women or young people without dependants, the statistics show that large numbers of working families are trying to bring up children on a poverty wage," it says.

The report calls for measures to tackle what it calls "the problem of low-wage poverty."

Moorland sealed in murder reconstruction

About fifty people were brought together to the Derbyshire Peak District village of Castleton yesterday to stage a reconstruction of the last hours of Susan Richard, aged 21, murdered at a student, from Manchester Polytechnic.

A large area of moorland above the village was sealed off as Police Constable Brenda Kirby, aged 27, took the role of the murder victim.

Det Supt Peter Burgess, who is leading the murder hunt, said he was confident the "reconstruction exercise would provide him with vital evidence about the murder.

Dr John Bodkin Adams, who died last week aged 84, was charged at the Central Criminal Court in 1957 with the murder of one of his elderly patients, Mrs Edith Morrell, by administering powerful and dangerous drugs.

After a 17-day trial during which he spoke only six words, "I am not guilty, my Lord," he was acquitted by the jury. They considered their verdict for only 44 minutes. Had the verdict been one of guilty the prosecution would have brought a similar case of murder against him, again involving one of his patients.

Mr Charlie Hewitt, a former Detective Chief Superintendent, who spent more than a year on the Dr Adams case, is convinced he is a mass murderer. He suspects he may even have killed a victim whose evidence could have sent him to the gallows.

In a book to be published next month Mr Hewitt says: "He was as guilty as hell but he had the luck of the Devil. He was without doubt a mass murderer who deserved to hang 20 times over. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind about his guilt. But he was allowed to escape the gallows or even imprisonment because the law made an ass of itself."

Mr Hewitt, now aged 71, of Worcester Park, Surrey, was quoted in *Where There's a Will...* by Rodney Hallworth, a former chief crime reporter. The book is to be published by Capstan Press.

Warning on clashes by CND chief

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, has written to the commanding officer of The Queen's Own Royal Highlanders about "the possibility of the wounding or even killing by British troops of unarmed members of the peace movement at some time in the future."

In his letter, Mr Kent says he realized members of the battalion on duty at RAF Greenham Common, where cruise missiles are to be deployed, were unarmed when confronting women peace protesters, but he said he wrote "as a consequence of the chilling spectacle of British troops now facing unarmed British citizens in Berkshire countryside."

Mr Kent says the 1907 Hague Convention states the right to adapt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited and suggests that the *British Manual of Military Law* says members of the Armed Forces are bound to obey lawful orders only.

"In the same section of the manual, particular responsibility is placed on senior officers to prevent the operation of unlawful orders," he writes. "I wonder if your soldiers at Greenham should not think more about the kind of warfare represented by cruise missiles and its illegality than about the non-violent protest of the women gathered there in the call of conscience?"

Mr Kent urged the commanding officer to raise some of the points in his letter with his superiors.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that the Queen's Own Royal Highlanders had not yet received the letter.

He suggested that might be because Mr Kent had sent his letter to Inverness, whereas the battalion's HQ is at Tidworth,

'Solvable' burglaries for detectives only

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Metropolitan Police are so overwhelmed by burglaries that they are experimenting in Ealing, West London, by sending detectives to investigate only those they are most likely to solve. The rest are handled by uniformed home beat officers.

The assessment of which burglaries detectives and special squads should pursue is calculated according to a formula introduced with the aid of Mr Gary Hayes, director of the United States Police Executive Research Forum. Mr Hayes says the priority scheme for burglaries is derived from a medical term, triage, which describes priorities for treatment.

The new approach has lifted morale among detectives who were spending too long on paperwork, and uniformed officers are delighted at having their role enhanced.

The extra policing in Ealing has meant that crimes handled by the uniformed officers have dropped, and crimes, including burglary, have fallen from 2,118

Check on air crash engine

Inspectors from the accident investigation branch of the Department of Transport at Farnborough, Hampshire, yesterday were sifting through the wreckage of the light aircraft in which Mr Keith Wickenden, the former Conservative MP for Dorset, was killed shortly after take-off from Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Among the matters they are likely to consider is the behaviour of the starboard engine in Mr Wickenden's De Havilland Dove aircraft. The engine was a new one undergoing its first flight. A witness said that it seemed to be misfiring. It was issuing intermittent smoke shortly after take-off.

The aircraft ran into trouble at around 800ft in perfect flying conditions. Mr Ben Gunn, airport manager at Shoreham, said: "The aircraft came down in a spiral. It turned twice before hitting the ground.

Mr Keith Wickenden: Perfect flying conditions

There was not enough time for it to get into a flat spin. He never stood a chance." The aircraft came down on the banks of the river Adur.

Mr Wickenden bought the aircraft earlier this year. He had the starboard engine fitted recently after the previous one had failed in flight.

Southern Air Limited, based at Shoreham airport, fitted the new engine after Mr Wickenden had bought it elsewhere. Southern Air said last night that the engine had had an official release note certifying it fit for flight.

It added that ground tests were done after the fitting as well as two hours of running at various power stages.

A pathologist was compiling a report after carrying out a post-mortem examination on the body of Mr Wickenden, who was alone on board his twin engine aircraft. A preliminary inquest is likely to be held in Shoreham later this week.

Mr Wickenden, aged 50, was chairman of European Ferries, and was also a member of the House of Commons. He died in 1982 of a heart attack.

Mr Wickenden, who lived in Headfield, near Brighton, did not stand at the general election because he was suffering from sarcoidosis, a chronic lung disease.

Forgery ring inquiry

By a Staff Reporter

Several people were questioned by the police yesterday in connexion with an art forgery ring, allegedly involving millions of pounds, including a collection of 52 paintings. One man, who was arrested on Saturday, was released yesterday and bailed to reappear at Vine Street police station pending further inquiries.

Scotland Yard said they were searching for another man "One of the key people in this investigation still eludes us."

For the past nine months the police have been investigating a

collection of allegedly faked paintings by Modigliani and a group of artists known as the Vorticist school, a pre-First World War group of painters led by Wyndham Lewis. The *Sunday Times* yesterday catalogued the paintings and said it had traced the pictures to two men.

Scotland Yard confirmed that the account in *The Sunday Times* was substantially correct but added: "We would have preferred no publicity because this is an operational matter."

Doctor a mass murderer, ex-detective says

Dr John Bodkin Adams, who died last week aged 84, was charged at the Central Criminal Court in 1957 with the murder of one of his elderly patients, Mrs Edith Morrell, by administering powerful and dangerous drugs.

After a 17-day trial during which he spoke only six words, "I am not guilty, my Lord," he was acquitted by the jury. They considered their verdict for only 44 minutes. Had the verdict been one of guilty the prosecution would have brought a similar case of murder against him, again involving one of his patients.

Mr Charlie Hewitt, a former Detective Chief Superintendent, who spent more than a year on the Dr Adams case, is convinced he is a mass murderer. He suspects he may even have killed a victim whose evidence could have sent him to the gallows.

In a book to be published next month Mr Hewitt says: "He was as guilty as hell but he had the luck of the Devil. He was without doubt a mass murderer who deserved to hang 20 times over. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind about his guilt. But he was allowed to escape the gallows or even imprisonment because the law made an ass of itself."

Mr Hewitt, now aged 71, of Worcester Park, Surrey, was quoted in *Where There's a Will...* by Rodney Hallworth, a former chief crime reporter. The book is to be published by Capstan Press.

Mr Hewitt added: "The doctor was beneficiary in 132 wills and I think he helped

many of those people on their way. He eased them out of this life often for gain. All of those deaths 25 were stone bankers.

"The trouble was that so many of his victims were cremated - of the 25 cetera 14 were cremated. That is why it was madness for the prosecution to go for one without a body.

"We had so many better cases and more specific evidence and what was more important, bodies. At the trial this meant we could not get the best out of the best forensic scientist of the day, Dr Francis Camps.

"I did not care if he was hanged for murder. This man was a menace and our job was to put him away. We could have made certain of that by going for manslaughter. We had more than enough evidence to convict for that.

"But the Attorney General (Sir Reginald Manningham-Buller) was a political animal who saw this case as a chance to make capital. He wanted the knotes and the glory.

"He thought he could get them by breaking Bodkin Adams in the dock. And perhaps he could have done. The doctor was a worried man and had come close to breaking down with us already. He might have cracked.

"But the classic courtroom confrontation never arose because the prosecution never considered the possibility that he might not be put in the witness box.

"That was the hallmark of the prosecution case. No anticipation and no attention

to detail. It was the reverse with the defence.

He went on: "Looking back, the blunders made were incredible, and so was the doctor's luck. But perhaps he made it.

"I have always believed that after all the months of investigation we stayed at Eastbourne two days too few. When we went up to London for the final meeting with the DPP and the Attorney General we had intended returning very soon to crack Mrs Elizabeth Sharp. She was the key to the whole case. She had been involved with many of the victims.

"She was ideally placed. Running a sort of twilight rest home for the elderly she knew so much about their personal

Science report Radioactive caesium found off Greenland

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Radioactive caesium, discharged by British Nuclear Fuels' reprocessing plant at Sellafield, formerly Wind scale, has been detected in the north polar currents east of Greenland.

The concentrations are one thousandth of those measured at the discharge outlet into the Irish Sea.

The discovery that the radioactive caesium is carried into Arctic waters is reported by scientists from the Riso National Laboratory, Denmark, and the University of Lund.

Their findings are published in the latest issue of *Nature* and maps show how the material is dispersed by North Atlantic and Arctic Ocean currents.

The material is carried from the source around the north of Scotland, across the North Sea to merge with the Norwegian-Atlantic current that moves close to the Norwegian coastline.

Then it veers west, between Norway and Iceland, and continues north to mix with the east Greenland polar current. The journey takes six to eight years.

Since the mid 1970s, discharges of radioactive caesium in the Irish Sea have increased the levels of radioactive material in the North Atlantic.

In the report in *Nature*, the scientist suggest that effluent from Sellafield could be used as a tracer to monitor waterborne pollution in the North Sea, which is the main recipient for discharges of all kinds from northern and western Europe. Source: *Nature*, July 7-13, 1983.

£1m tennis spending defended

By Richard Eaton

Lawn Tennis Association and All England Club officials yesterday defended the decision to spend £1m on improvements at the Queen's Club in west London, and said the move would not affect loans to other clubs.

Although Queen's Club is owned by the Lawn Tennis Association it is run as a private club, and a weekend press report suggested that the largest investment in British tennis outside Wimbledon was being lavished on a privileged few.

Apparently the money for the improvements at Queen's does not come from the everyday resources of the associations but from a debenture share issue. One of the requirements of raising such money is that it must be spent on capital improvements.

The money is spent is, therefore, different from that spent on other clubs and will not affect loans to other clubs at all, although the fact remains that loans elsewhere totalled a much smaller sum last year.

Wnrk will begin in October on renewing the existing facilities at the Queen's Club and continue when planning permission has been obtained, with four new indoor courts.

That should help to maintain the reputation of Wimbledon as the world's premier event by improving the practice facilities, and should also go a little way to remedying the lack of indoor courts that has held British tennis back in the past 20 years.

Both Sir Brian Burnett, chairman of the All England Club, and Mr James Cochrane, president of the Lawn Tennis Association, were reported to be angry yesterday at what they regarded as misleading reports.

Covered courts at Queen's will be available not only for Wimbledon practice but for the Stella Artois championships, and it could be argued that such improvements are overdue.

Sir Brian also denied a report that Wimbledon tennis would be played under lights for the first time in its 106-year history. At this stage Wimbledon is apparently only experimenting with the possibility and might decide it was too expensive.

Table with 2 columns: Country, Selling Price. Includes entries for Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, etc.

Advertisement for Christie's St. James's, 8 King Street, London SW1. Lists various items for sale such as Japanese Works of Art, Fine French and Continental Furniture, etc.

Advertisement for Falcon flights between Geneva and Zurich. Features the slogan 'NOT TO SWITZERLAND' and a price of £59 for Zurich return only.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Includes the text 'Nurses and...' and 'Cash-st...'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'صلى الله عليه وسلم'.

Nurses live with fear and squalor in cash-starved hostels

By Richard Dowden

More than 50 nurses living in an NHS hostel at the St Helier Hospital in Carshalton, Surrey, have just one bath and one cooker between them and no fridge.

The nurses, all students, live on the first floor of the five-storey hostel and along with 250 other nurses living there, share just one washing machine.

At night many of the nurses are frightened because two entrances to the hostel supposed to be closed at 10pm are left permanently open, with no special security. "Any stranger can come and go as he pleases," one nurse says.

Hostels such as St Helier's are creating increasing dissatisfaction and even anger among thousands of Britain's nurses. But, as the health service contemplates a fresh round of cutbacks, the nurses see little sign of improvement.

At St Helier's, built in the 1930s, two of the five floors have been refurbished. But plans to improve the remainder have been shelved because of past cuts.

One result is that nurses, especially those working shifts, have difficulty in sleeping because of noise as their colleagues move around in lino-covered rooms and corridors. In some parts paint is peeling badly from the walls. One nurse said it was so depressing that two students she knew had taken drug overdoses because they were so unhappy.

St Helier's may be one of the country's worst hostels but its problems are not untypical. A survey by *Nursing Mirror* has shown that from 274 replies, nearly three-quarters thought security arrangements unsatisfactory and almost four out of five reported incidents of theft.

Nursing Mirror has launched a national campaign to highlight the problem. The Department of Health and Social Security said there were no special plans for the upgrading of nurses' hostels and it would be one of many priorities competing for health authorities' funds. Mr Timothy Yeo, Conservative MP for Suffolk, South, is expected to raise the matter in the Commons shortly.

There is no national system for running the hostels. Some health authorities leave it to the individual hospitals, others run them directly. Guidelines for nurses' accommodation laid down in 1964 recommended: "Each person requires a separate bed-sitting room for sleeping, studying, reading, writing etc with washing facilities."

There should be one bath (or shower), one wc, and one kitchen utility room for every four to six persons. Only one hostel visited by *The Times* came up to that standard, ten others visited or telephoned fell short on several counts.

The commonest problems are: General lack of maintenance. Many of the older hostels are drab, dingy and institutional. Old-fashioned two-pin electrical sockets. Apart from the dangers of fire, nurses cannot use hair driers or kettles.

Few telephones, leaving the nurses lonely and isolated. Lack of security. Many live in fear of prowlers and intruders. Lack of provision for study. Few rooms have desks or bookshelves.

Lack of freedom and privacy. Several nurses complained they were treated like children. Lack of places to store food. Between 20 and 30 nurses frequently have to share a fridge and food can be pilfered from it. Many keep food in their rooms, but that brings in ants and cockroaches.

Although the Department has recommended setting up residence committees in the hostels, few have them. Three case histories are given on the left.

None of the 19 nurses contacted by *The Times* would agree to the use of their names in an article. They all said they were afraid of being victimized or labelled as militant.

One factor affecting hostel conditions is that nurses' homes are not subject to inspection by health and safety officers as local authority hostels or hotels are. As crown property, they are exempt from the enforcement provisions of the Acts governing health and safety.

They are ultimately the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive, but one inspector described them as a "grey area".

Fire precautions are the responsibility of the health authority fire officer. One said: "I really have only an advisory role - some of the buildings are old and have been given dispensation from normal fire precautions."

About 48,000 of Britain's nurses live in hostels. Many are student nurses aged 18 living away from home for the first time, who know no one and have no one to turn to when they arrive. They work long hours, often at night, and are expected to study for examinations during off-duty time.

Since 1981, the health authorities have been encouraged to charge "realistic" rents for accommodation and most nurses pay between £35 and £45 a month. Many had to pay back-dated rent rises earlier this year in the same month in which they got their pay rise. In some cases the rent rise exceeded the pay rise.

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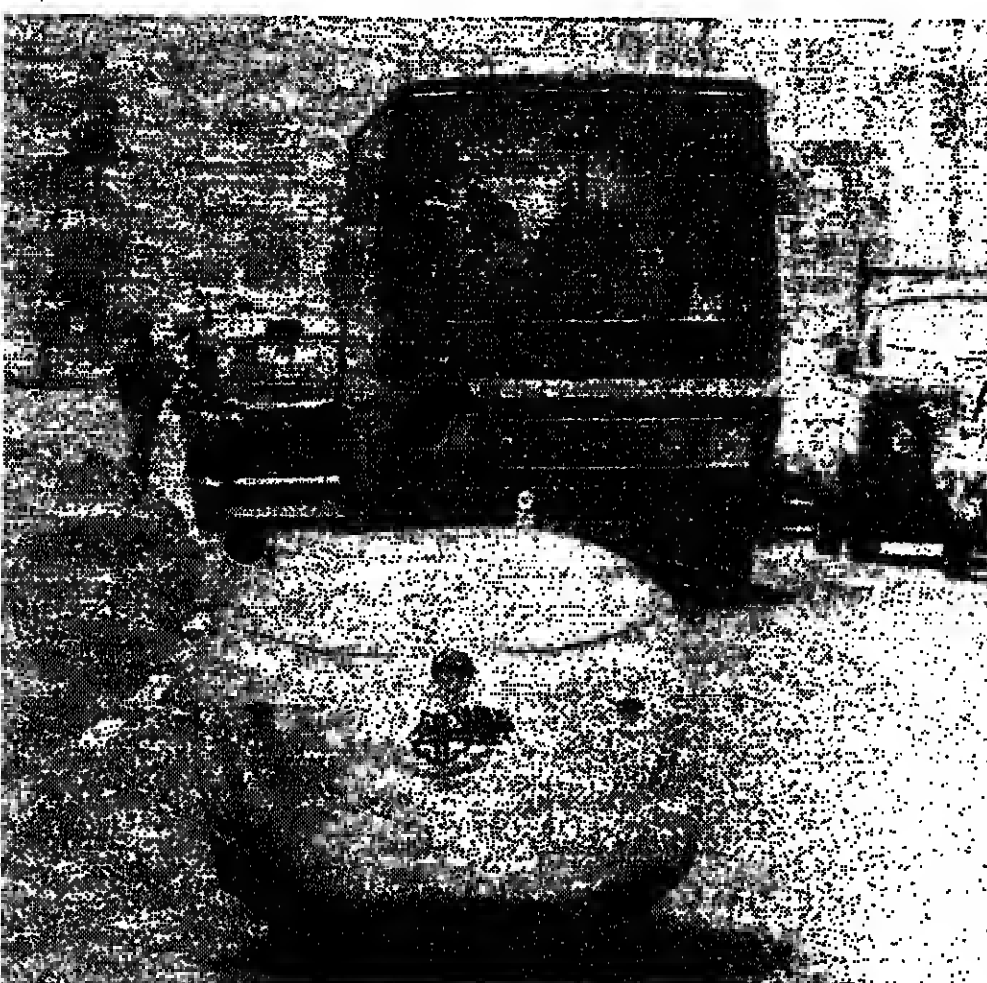
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48-legged race: One of a team of 24 students from Imperial College, London, setting off from Charing Cross yesterday in a 18-gear Barrows Windcheetah tricycle to pedal 3,765 miles non-stop around the British coast and into the Guinness Book of Records in 10 days. They hope to raise £10,000 to buy an engine for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

British Open Championship £8m: A town's hole-in-one

By Ross Davies

Whichever of the world's great golfers carries off the £40,000 top prize in the British Open Championship this week, a number of clear winners have already emerged.

They are the people living within walking distance of the Royal Birkdale course near Southport, Lancashire, who have let their homes to golfers and spectators for the four days of the event. They are setting a minimum of £350 for what the local estate agents Ball & Percival call "a well-appointed semi" to, in one case, £4,000 for a detached property described as "right out of a James Bond film, complete with indoor swimming pool with a sliding floor which converts the area into a ballroom."

There has yet to be any standing in the streets of this northern Eastbourne, for Southport is nothing if not sedate, but this financial hole-in-one reaches down to the humblest bed and breakfast accommodation, as a town with about 15,000 beds prepares to welcome twice that number of visitors each night of the Open, which starts on Thursday.

The town's hotels are fully booked since February. Mrs Frances Crahtree, of Ball & Percival which handles offers of accommodation for the organizers, said: "It is terrible. I think I will be nits by this time next week. I have been fully occupied with the paperwork since February."

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Open, have their accommodation booked for them in this way. Back at Ball & Percival, Mrs Crahtree took a telephone call from Denver, Colorado. "It is someone booking a property, a two-bedroom semi at let's say, £400 for the week", she said. For how many visitors? "Oh, just the one."

The owner, she said, was moving out for the duration, but this was not always the case. "Some go on holiday, and some stay with friends or family", she went on. "There are one or two who will be camping out in tents or caravans at the end of the garden, but that is by arrangement with the visitors, of course."

The £4,000 property had yet to be let, she said, but inquiries were still flooding in and she was working late at the office. The most expensive booking so far was £2,500 for "a lovely home sleeping six" but the average, usually for a four-bedroom semi is £1,000.

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Public's help sought to tackle loan shark menace

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Loan sharks who trap mostly the disadvantaged into a whirlpool of debt and then resort to aggressive methods to ensure repayment got a warning yesterday from Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Sir Gordon, who wants to curb the loan sharks, said local authority trading standards departments and his Office of Fair Trading needed "the cooperation and sometimes the courage" of the public in enforcing legislation which could stop illegal moneylenders.

At the same time the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux said the activities of moneylenders charging extortionate rates of interest were growing. It was particularly affecting inner-city areas where the unemployed and single-parent families resorted to moneylenders as the only means of raising loans.

The loan shark menace has been increasing for 18 months, the association said. Of five million inquiries last year to bureaux around the country, a 12 per cent increase on the previous year, a fifth concerned debt questions.

The sharks put pressure on debtors in several ways, the association reported. Women who had raised loans without their husbands' knowledge were threatened with disclosure to the husband. Vans marked

"debt collection" were parked outside debtors' home to cause them embarrassment with neighbours. There has been cases of bricks being thrown through windows.

Sir Gordon described a favourite gambit by the loan sharks: illegally taking supplementary benefit or family allowance books as security against loans.

At Netherley, Liverpool, where there is a high unemployment rate and a large single-parent population, Miss Charlotte Anderson, the local advice bureau organizer, said she knew of cases where family allowance books had been impounded for as long as 11 years as debtors were trapped into a cycle of debts.

Last year the Netherley bureau handled 7,000 inquiries, half of which related to debts. The Office of Fair Trading gave an example of one couple who borrowed £50 25 years ago to set up a home. This year, million inquiries last year to bureaux around the country, a 12 per cent increase on the previous year, a fifth concerned debt questions.

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"debt collection" were parked outside debtors' home to cause them embarrassment with neighbours. There has been cases of bricks being thrown through windows.

Inner-city action 'inadequate'

By Baron Phillips Property Correspondent

Government attempts to rejuvenate Britain's decaying inner-city areas have achieved only minor successes, Shelter, the National Campaign for the Homeless, claims today.

Schemes, such as home-sharing, shared ownership and building for sale, have had limited impact in inner urban areas, Shelter says. Since the Government launched urban initiatives in 1980 aimed at regenerating home ownership in inner-city areas, sales have totalled only 19,000 compared with 275,000 homes sold under the right-to-buy campaign and 315,000 private sector starts during the same period.

In Shelter's magazine, *Root*, the organization says that less than 4 per cent of the vacant inner-city land, identified under the 1980 public land register, has been developed by private sector builders. About 108,000 acres of unused or underused inner-city areas have been identified by the Government as having potential for development.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, has suggested recently that it is local authorities' refusal to sell that land that is the main reason for such a poor development record.

But the House-Builders Federation has argued over the past year that about 11 per cent of the land identified in the register is suitable for housing development.

Shelter claims the lack of private sector interest in inner-city sites is a combination of development difficulties and low consumer demand for homes on such sites. Interest in inner urban land is particularly low in the North of England, Shelter says.

First public hearing on cable TV

By Bill Johnstone Electronics Correspondent

The first public hearing on cable television, sponsored jointly by two local authorities, will take place today in Sheffield. There will be another in London on July 20.

The hearings are significant since the Government's policy, outlined in the White Paper published in April, minimizes the influence local authorities could have on franchise applications for cable television systems. The Greater London Council and Sheffield Council are concerned that their plans could be ignored since any cable television network is likely to want to lay cable in council housing estates. The organizers of the joint hearings said the purpose of the meetings were: "To raise questions about cable that had not adequately been dealt with."

Giving verbal evidence today will be representatives of the Post Office Engineering Union, the BBC and the IBA. At the meeting in London submissions will be heard from the National Union of Journalists, British Film Institute and the Association of Broadcasting Staffs among others.

The Government has invited applications for the 12 franchises which it intends to award by November. Applications must be submitted by the end of next month and will be for cable networks connecting about 100,000 homes.

The hearings, which are to be conducted by Mr Michael Ward, chairman of the GLC industry and employment committee and Mr David Bunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council, will be held in Sheffield council chamber and County Hall, London.



Dismal prospect: A St Helier nurse confronts peeling paint (Photograph: John Voos).

Middlesex Hospital
York House accommodates about 200 employees of the Middlesex Hospital, including 60 nurses. Electrical wiring in some nurses' rooms has not been replaced for at least 40 years although there are plans to rewire the building. There are damp patches on some ceilings which have not been tackled since last winter, and the building is plagued with cockroaches. On one floor about 60 people share three cookers, and because of the cuts, canteen opening hours have been reduced so it is difficult for nurses on some shifts to get a meal.

E Birmingham Hospital
At Devon House, which serves the East Birmingham Hospital, there are no sinks in the rooms. Thirty-three nurses on one floor share three baths, five lavatories and six washbasins. There are two broken showers. Sixty-six share a single cooker and a fridge. It is possible to wait three hours for a meal after, normally, one security officer patrols the whole hospital. There have been break-ins.

All Saints, Lambeth

At All Saints, a hospital for acute psychiatric cases in Lambeth, London, 25 employees, including several nurses, live in a prefabricated hut built in 1948 as a short-term measure. Staff and patients share the same sitting room and lavatory. Windows in the bathroom and kitchen are broken and the lavatory which serves the 25 staff

has a hardboard ceiling. Two fire doors are left open permanently and a nurse had equipment valued at more than £1,000 stolen in two break-ins. The window of her room has still not been made secure, but the hospital accepts no responsibility for the loss. The building is in a bad state of repair, with filthy paintwork and leaking radiators.

Protesters demand end to baggage checks

From Our Correspondent, Dover

A call for the removal of customs checks on hand baggage throughout the EEC was made at Dover docks yesterday when European Movement demonstrators demanded free movement of people and goods within the Community.

Travellers passing through Dover were met by placard-carrying members of the European Movement. The organization has received a letter of support from Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, who said the Government would continue to give high priority to removing customs barriers.

Mr Christopher Jackson, European MP for East Kent, who was at the demonstration,

said: "We should tighten up checks on first entry to the EEC, particularly for things like drugs, but take major moves to free travellers within the EEC from any checks at all on hand baggage."

In parallel with this, there could be large increases in the allowances of goods that can be taken across the EEC free of VAT and excise duty. "I have in mind particularly the problems of coach travellers passing through Dover who have to unload all their luggage."

"At the same time, we must push through the already envisaged simplifications for clearance of lorries, which often have to wait far too long for clearance."

Demolition firm to rebuild historic cottage

From Our Correspondent Peterborough

Building contractors who demolished a 300-year-old stone cottage in Market Deeping, near Stamford, Lincolnshire, last week, are to be told to rebuild it.

The cottage formerly the King's Head Inn, was in a conservation area. It was being converted as part of a development for 12 mews shops, and the contractors had planning permission only for interior restoration.

South Kesteven District Council's planners are due to meet in 10 days. They are expected to issue an enforcement order. The contractors, however, have already agreed to rebuild.

Protest over 'nameless' JPs

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Newspaper editors have protested to the Home Office over the growing practice of Magistrates' courts refusing to disclose the names of chairmen or members of the bench to the press.

The latest instance occurred last Thursday, when a clerk at Acton Magistrates' Court said the chairman of the bench that found a garage guilty of illegally docking employees' wages did not want her name disclosed.

Other instances have been reported, and the Guild of British Newspaper Editors has asked the Home Office for an explanation. Mrs Margaret Mair, the guild's parliamentary and legal secretary, said: "Justice cannot

be seen to be done if the public cannot know who is administering it. This is anonymous justice."

The guild's view, as expressed in its letter, was that magistrates "must take the risk attached to anyone in public service". There was no legal ruling on the matter, Mrs Mair said, but statute law seemed to support disclosure.

The section of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1980, on reporting in communal proceedings where restrictions are not lifted, puts the names of the magistrates at the top of the list. Mr Peter Lydiate, clerk to the Acton justices, said: "It is not the case that we refuse to give

names. But the court clerks are not allowed to disclose them. We have had trouble in the past from the press quoting not just names, but also addresses, so all inquiries must come through to me or my deputy."

In another case, the reason given to the *Finchley Times* was that the magistrate was worried that her car might be vandalized.

The Lord Chancellor's department said there was no policy on disclosing names, and it was up to members of the bench. An official added that magistrates were in a slightly different position from that of senior judges, in that they lived very much more within the local community.

Law Society accused of breaking the law

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society, which runs the civil legal aid scheme, is accused of breaking the law by sometimes refusing legal aid for advice on welfare benefits or nationality applications.

In a bulletin published today, the Legal Action Group of lawyers and advice workers says some firms of solicitors and law centres have had difficulty obtaining aid under the green form scheme. Legal aid officials have advised that problems over benefit entitlement are purely "social and administrative" and "not a matter which requires

the skill and expertise of a solicitor." Clients should consult a Citizens Advice Bureau, or the Department of Health and Social Security. But the group says that, under the Legal Aid Act, 1974, "entitlement to benefit, governed by volumes of incomprehensible regulations, is as much a matter of law as perusing a land registry document, or advising on making a will."

It concludes that it is likely the High Court would hold many of the Law Society's decisions unlawful.

Science teaching shake-up urged

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Substantial changes in the way science is taught in secondary schools are proposed by a government-backed body in a report being distributed to educationists and to industry and commerce.

The proposals are that pupils should learn science up to the age of 16, that their courses be broadened to include neglected subjects such as astronomy and that they be taught how to tackle practical difficulties. Students would also be required to undertake one important technological project.

The plan, prepared by the Secondary Science Curriculum Review over the past two years,

is based on the premise that a scientific and technologically literate population is central to economic growth and social well-being. One in ten students, about 94,000, study no science over the age of 13. Moreover few do all three sciences: physics, chemistry and biology.

That means that 73 per cent of boys and 81 per cent of girls are failing to study a broad range of science in their fourth and fifth years at secondary school.

The review group, is sponsored by the Association for Science Education, the Department of Education and Science, the Health Education Council,

the Northern Ireland Council for Educational Development and the Schools Council. The Steering committee, which also includes representatives from the examination boards and the universities, the groups most likely to oppose reform, has started work on putting its proposals into practice through a development programme. That is where most of its £1m budget will go.

Science Education 11-16: Proposals for action and consultation (Secondary Science Curriculum Review, Harford House, 101-103 Great Portland Street, London W1, free; comments to be in by end of November).

Everyone loves the Panda and its mate.

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Afghanistan puzzle

UN's agreement jigsaw still lacking one vital Soviet piece

From Michael Hamlyn, Islamabad

The jigsaw of an agreement on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan which is being laboriously assembled by the United Nations special representative, is missing one big and vital piece: the Russians have yet to indicate what sort of schedule they have in mind for withdrawal.

Vikings fail to get their Soviet visa

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

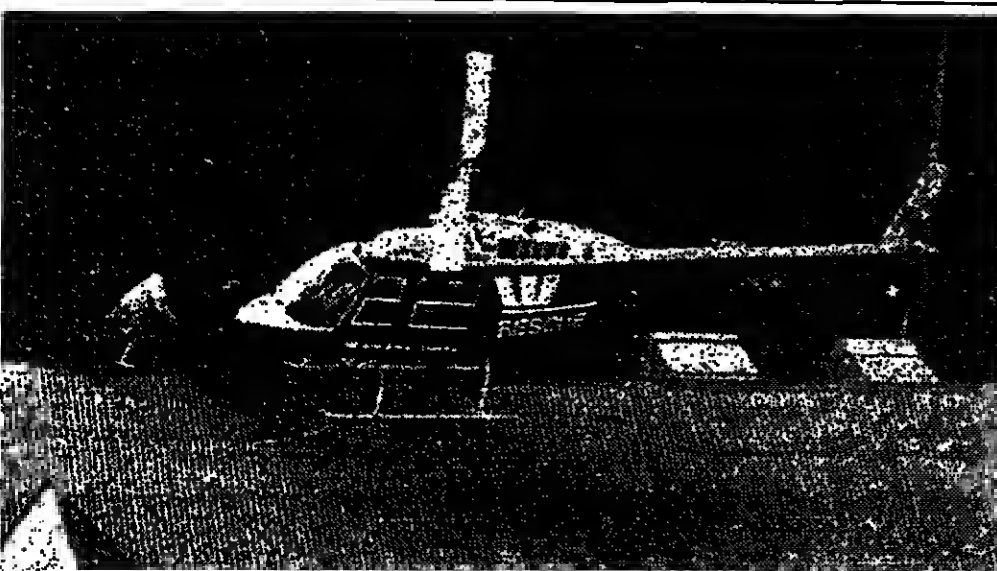
The Soviet Union has done something no one and nothing else was ever able to do. It has stopped the Vikings.



was Vikings from the Swedish mainland, not Gotland, that had reached the Black Sea.

Peace rally in East Germany draws 100,000

Dresden (AP) - Church leaders declared their support for East German pacifists here yesterday as more than 100,000 people gathered in the highest Lutheran rally in this country since 1954.



Roof-top rescue: A helicopter straddles the roof of a cheese factory between Blenheim and Pictou in New Zealand's South Island to rescue people trapped by floods.

King Hassan adamant on the Sahara

From Godfrey Morrison, Rabat

For the sake of national unity King Hassan of Morocco has postponed a general election planned for September until after a referendum on the future of the Western Sahara, due by the end of the year.

Gulf oil slick threatens survival of wildlife

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The World Wildlife Fund has recorded abnormally large numbers of dead dugongs, dolphins, turtles, fish, sea snakes and birds in the Gulf - apparently victims of the oil that has flowed unimpeded into the sea since February because of the Iran-Iraq war.

Israel lets Lebanon take over position

Beirut (Reuters) - The hand-over of an Israeli position on the mountains east of Beirut to the Lebanese Army could be a dress rehearsal for a long awaited partial withdrawal by Israeli forces in Lebanon.

The handover, which was conducted without any fanfare, was fully arranged in advance between the Lebanese and Israeli armies, the sources said.

Plans for a partial withdrawal were prompted by rising casualties from guerrilla attacks on Israeli troops and the stalemate in United States-led efforts to secure a simultaneous withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from Lebanon.

Mitterrand 'confesses' errors

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Was it a deliberate leak by President Mitterrand in an attempt to change his public image, or was it a question of unscrupulous journalism breaking the rules of off-the-record comments never intended for publication?

Only Jobert (the former Trade Minister) encouraged me to take that course. In a confused way, I felt that he was right, but Mauroy (the Prime Minister) and Delors (the Finance Minister) persuaded me of the opposite, and Rocard (now Minister for Agriculture and the 'darling' of the Socialist right) did not say anything... Mitterrand is quoted as saying.

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Protests have promptly followed statements by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist serving life imprisonment here for his attempt on the Pope's life, in which he accused Bulgarians of complicity in the plot and named the KGB as the organizers.

Holland's new cruise liner sails for US

From Robert Schuil, Amsterdam

The Nieuw Amsterdam, the third flag ship of the Holland American Line of that name, left Le Harve yesterday on her twice-postponed maiden voyage.

Pope's would-be killer denies link with kidnap

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Protests have promptly followed statements by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist serving life imprisonment here for his attempt on the Pope's life, in which he accused Bulgarians of complicity in the plot and named the KGB as the organizers.

Chad town captured by rebels

Paris (Reuters) - The key eastern Chad town of Abéché has fallen to the Libyan-backed rebel forces of the former president, Mr Goukouni Oueddei, French television reported yesterday.

The Antenne-2 network said a doctor in Abéché with the Paris-based Médecins Sans Frontières volunteer organization told its Ndjamena correspondent of the town's capture when contacted by radio.

The doctor said he had been ordered to present himself to 'the new authorities' in Abéché. The correspondent reported that the French Ambassador in Ndjamena was preparing a contingency plan for evacuating French citizens in Chad to neighbouring Cameroon if necessary.

Everyone is convinced, that things could move very quickly now, the correspondent said. The capture of Abéché would open the road to Ndjamena, 450 miles to the south-west.

Granted entry

Stockholm - Miss Viktoria Mullova, aged 23, the soviet violinist and her piano accompanist, Mr Vahtang Sordaniya, aged 40, who fled to Sweden while on a concert tour of Finland, flew to New York after being granted political asylum in the US.

They said government troops went into action on two fronts around Abéché and Oum-Chalouba, the north-eastern town captured by the rebel forces.

The circumstances of his latest assertion were bizarre. He had asked to give investigators his views on allegations that a 15-year-old girl, Emanuela Orlandi, had been taken as hostage, to be exchanged for Agca. She has been missing from her house in the Vatican for nearly three weeks.

Nothing is known about the people holding her, but her release has been offered in a series of anonymous telephone calls in return for the freeing of Agca. Some of the calls have been made to the family and to the Vatican.

Agca claims he told the police that he had no connexion, direct or indirect, with the kidnapping of the girl and refused any such exchange, adding his own personal appeal to the kidnappers to release her.

He said he had reported of his attempt to kill the Pope in St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981 and he repeated his accusation against Mr Serghei Antonov, an official of the Bulgarian airline in Rome, who has been held since November after Agca first named him as an accomplice.

Agca was allowed to say all this on Friday to journalists in the courtyard at police headquarters. It is puzzling that he was taken there at all, when he could much more easily have been interrogated in prison, as had happened on several earlier occasions.

The Rome newspaper *l'Espresso* unequivocally stated that the investigators wanted "to give simple publicity to Agca's position". Mr Antonov's lawyers have protested and an official investigation has been ordered.

MOSCOW: The Russians flatly denied over the weekend that they had anything to do with the abortive assassination, saying there was incontrovertible evidence that no Communist countries were involved in the plot, Michael Binyon writes. Tass said reports quoting Agca were part of an American crusade against Communist countries.

Iran closes French consulate

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran closed the French consulate in the town of Fashan and the French Cultural Institute in Iran in retaliation for what it said was France's involvement in the hijack of an Iranian airliner last week.

The Boeing 747, with 350 passengers, was seized by six men during a domestic flight to Tehran on Wednesday and forced to fly to Kuwait and then Paris. The hijackers have been charged with air piracy in a French court.

France has rejected an Iranian request for their extradition and French officials said they would probably be granted asylum.

Death sentence on seaman

Port of Spain - Allan Henry, a Guyana seaman, was sentenced to death here for the murder of Michael Crocker, an English Yachtsman. Mr Crocker was strangled in January last year on board his yacht while on a round-the-world trip with his wife and two English friends.

Jesuit superior to be elected

Rome (AP) - The Jesuits are to elect a new superior at a general congregation that begins on September 1.

In an unusual move two years ago, the Pope appointed Father Paolo Dezza as the Jesuit superior after the illness of Father Pedro Arrupe. The Pope warned the order to stay out of politics in March 1982 but later agreed to let them replace his personal representative by vote.

Waste protest

Madrid (Reuters) - Spanish ecology groups launched a weekend of protest against British plans to dump radioactive waste at sea off the northern region of Galicia.

Teacher jailed

Peking (AFP) - Ye Lifa, aged 68, a Shanghai teacher, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for spying for a foreign country, the New China news agency reported.

Triple collision

Germon-Ferrand (Reuters) - Thirty elderly people were injured, two critically, when their coach collided with a cattle lorry and a car near the central French town of Sardoux.

Sword fight

Delhi (AP) - Two people were reported killed in a clash between two groups of militant Sikhs armed with swords, spears and guns in the northern city of Chandigarh.

Footprint clue

Colombo (Reuters) - Sri Lankan police will take footprints of suspected criminals as well as fingerprints in future. Most criminals in Sri Lanka do not wear shoes.

Police killed

Lima (Reuters) About 50 Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas killed 12 civil guards in an attack on police headquarters in a remote Andean village in Abancay province.

Nigeria ban

Lagos (Reuters) - Police in the Nigerian state of Oyo have banned public meetings for 14 days after the deaths of six people in a clash between supporters of rival political parties.

New Indian Bill to crack down on dowry crime

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

The Indian Government is planning to bring in legislation to deal with the rising scandal of dowry deaths.

Almost daily reports of the fiery deaths of young married women who have either been murdered or driven to suicide by their husbands or in-laws in pursuit of more money as dowry have shocked newspaper readers here and aroused international protest.

The new Bill will incorporate a provision in the Indian penal code punishing those who cause mental or physical cruelty or who harass women in the first seven years of their marriage.

High rate seen as social threat 950,000 divorces a year in Russia

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

A Soviet sociologist has disclosed that there are almost a million divorces a year in the Soviet Union. And asked whether marriage was not in danger of dying out.

Mr Yuri Ryurikov said in a Pravda article at the weekend that between 2.6 million and 2.8 million people got married each year, but the divorce rate was now close to 950,000. Unless people learned to take a more responsible attitude to family life, the family as a unit was doomed.

The high divorce rate - which in European Russia is running close to 50 per cent - took a heavy social toll. Every fourth adult lives alone, usually because divorced, and there were millions of lonely people. Millions of children grew up without a father, and the number of family quarrels was increasing.

The authorities are concerned by growing alcoholism among Soviet youth and have blamed this on the lack of firm control at home. Sociologists have also spoken of the dangers of children becoming egoistic, especially when brought up as only children without a father.

The Pravda article blamed the weakening of traditional family bonds, such as reliance on one breadwinner and a general irresponsible attitude to marriage, especially among youth. He also said the growing materialism put a strain on family relations.

People nowadays tended to expect too much from marriage without being prepared to contribute anything themselves. In a comment clearly aimed at Soviet men, whose chauvinist attitude has been frequently attacked in the press, the article said young people should be taught to regard marriage as an equal partnership.

It spoke of official measures now being taken to strengthen marriage and prevent its breakdown. These include marriage guidance services, a stepped-up campaign against male alcoholism, sex education in schools and sex counselling to help couples in difficulties.

Handwritten Arabic text: ١٥٥١ من الاصل

Chile jails three leaders of main opposition party on eve of protest

Santiago (AP, Reuter) - A judge sent the president and two other leaders of Chile's largest opposition party to jail on Saturday on suspicion of organizing a protest against the military regime.

Scores of Christian Democratic activists shouted "Liberty, liberty" in the halls of the Supreme Court building as police ushered their party's leaders to an armoured prison van after a five-and-a-half-hour hearing before Judge Arnaldo Dreese.

At the Government's request, the judge had called Señor Gabriel Valdés, the party president, Señor José Degregorio, its secretary-general, and Señor Jorge Lavandero, a former senator, to question them in the case of two young Christian Democratic activists jailed since last Monday night.

The two activists had been seized at a Santiago print shop while picking up 700,000 leaflets urging Chileans to take part in a peaceful one-day protest tomorrow against President Augusto Pinochet's authoritarian rule. They were charged with threatening state security.

After the hearing, Señor Ambrosio Rodríguez, state prosecutor, announced that the judge had ordered the party leaders to be held incommunicado "on suspicion of participating in the events being investigated". The judge has five days to decide whether to bring charges against them.

The jailings were an important step in a crackdown on the broad-based political and trade union movement that organized two massive one-day demonstrations on May 11 and June 14, the biggest since General Pinochet seized power in 1973.

Señor Valdés, aged 64, a former Foreign Minister, smiled as police led him from the courtroom, and Señor Lavandero flashed a V-sign. Party activists said the jailings would fuel tomorrow's third "day of national protest".

On Friday, armed men raided the headquarters of a national group that has spearheaded recent protests and abducted a number of people.

The National Union Coordinating Group is the most radical of five labour organizations involved in the demonstrations.

Señor Arturo Valdés, a union official, said that two dozen men, carrying machine guns and dressed in civilian clothes, arrived in unmarked cars and destroyed furniture and took away office equipment. They did not identify themselves but appeared to be secret police.

The military Government has meanwhile authorized 99 more exiles to return to the country, including Señor Remán Fuentes, a former president of the Christian Democratic Party, and Señor Cesar Gody, aged 82, a former Communist member of Congress.

● BONN: West Germany's Christian Democrats yesterday protested to the Chilean Government about the arrest in Santiago. (Reuter reports).



At ease: A Salvadorean soldier taking a siesta. Troops are supporting a US-backed civic action programme.

Prisoners 'killed by Salvadorean guerrillas'

Nueva Granada, El Salvador (AP) - Five out of 16 people killed in a guerrilla attack on Friday were tied up and shot, inhabitants of this town 62 miles east of the capital said.

The Defence Ministry reported that 12 civil defence guards were killed, but residents said that four civilians also died in the attack. They said that five of the civil defence guards ran out of ammunition and surrendered.

Radio Venceremos, mouthpiece of the left-wing rebels, claimed that the guerrillas killed eight members of a paramilitary death squad in attack. Reports of guerrillas executing their captives have increased in El Salvador in recent months, but have been impossible to verify independently.

Residents said they believed that about 10 guerrillas died in the attack. Leaflets left behind by rebels, estimated to number

250, were signed by the Popular Liberation Forces.

Two journalists - Mr Mark Fazlollah, aged 34, an American who freelances for the Daily Telegraph, and Mr Steve Copp, aged 30, who works for BBC radio, were arrested by soldiers near San Agustín, 61 miles east of San Salvador, on Friday. They were interrogated and then released.

● SAN JOSE: Mr Richard Stone, President Reagan's special

Central American envoy, may have met representatives of the Salvadorean guerrillas in a house "50 minutes from San Jose", Señor Fernando Volio, the Costa Rican Foreign Minister, said on Saturday.

He gave no further details, but sources said that two leaders of El Salvador's Democratic Revolutionary Front, (FDR), Señor Rubén Zamora and Señor Guillermo Ungo, had been waiting for Mr Stone.

Glomp hits out at 'superficial' press

Rome (AP) - Cardinal Jozef Glomp, the Polish Primate, criticized the press yesterday for political speculation during the Pope's trip to his homeland and said that foreigners should not "stick their noses" into Poland's affairs.

"The world of political journalism, of speculation, again showed itself to be superficial", he said during a Mass at the Polish church of St Stanislaw.

Cardinal Glomp said that during the Pope's visit "We became aware that things are not that bad because we showed a great readiness in organizing the visit of the Holy Father on a national level".

● MOSCOW: The Soviet Union has appointed Mr Aleksandra Aksonov, former Prime Minister of Byelorussia, its new Ambassador to Poland. (Reuter reports).

Mr Aksonov takes over from Mr Boris Aronov, who arrived in Warsaw in 1978.

In Warsaw, Poles were given a new sign that martial law is to be lifted with a report that the executive committee of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (Pron) had appealed to the Sejm (Parliament) and the Government "to lift martial law and pass legislation enabling a return to civic life for those charged with violation of martial law regulations, and those still in hiding".

Economic ills blamed in Central America

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain

The turmoil in Central America is not due to East-West ideological rivalry but to "deep-seated social and economic ills," leaders of the 13 Caribbean Community (Caricom) states, declared at the end of a five-day summit in Port of Spain.

The summit in the Trinidad and Tobago capital called for an end to foreign intervention in Central America, and the training of mercenaries and an end to border conflicts, and supported the attempt of the Contadora group to find a peaceful solution.

The Caribbean leaders also renewed their support for Guyana in its border dispute with Venezuela and deplored Guatemala's refusal to abandon its "unfounded" claim to part of Belize.

On economic issues, the summit which ended on Friday, found renewed confidence and optimism in the Caricom group, which was being battered by trade and currency conflicts for much of the year.

As well as admitting the Bahamas as Caricom's thirteenth member, appointing as secretary general the Jamaican economist, Mr Roderick Ratinfor, and agreeing on a pro-

gramme of all summit meetings, the conference agreed on a funding and restructuring scheme for the almost bankrupt University of the West Indies and revived the Caricom multilateral clearing facility, suspended since April after Guyana ran up large debts.

The summit called on the Reagan Administration to open its Caribbean Basin initiative to all Caricom members - at present Guyana and Grenada are effectively excluded - and to remove objections to steel exports into the US from Trinidad and Tobago.

It adopted elaborate strategies for decreasing the region's dependence on imported food, for rationalizing regional energy supplies and for nudging member states into backing a single regional air carrier.

Ideological conflict still threatens the fragile community, however. At the start of the summit Mr Edward Seaga the two American Jamaican Prime Minister, attacked revolutionary Grenada, sparking off a slanging match that lasted all week.

Grenada blocked Mrs Seaga's move to enlarge Caricom by admitting the Spanish-speaking Dominican Republic.

Chinese girl hopes to marry envoy

Peking (AFP) - Miss Li Shuang, the Chinese artist just freed after serving nearly two years in a labour camp for living with a French diplomat, said yesterday she hoped to marry as soon as possible.

Miss Li, aged 26, told Agence-France Presse that she wanted her marriage to M Emmanuel Bellefroid, formerly of the French Embassy in Peking and now in Paris, to be in accordance with Chinese law.

She was arrested in September, 1981, at the compound for foreigners where she was living with M Bellefroid, aged 35. She was sentenced by the police, without trial, to two years of "re-education through labour" for immoral conduct, untidy for having lived with her fiancé.

Paler and thinner but looking healthy, Miss Li said she was overjoyed at being released on Friday, having had her sentence shortened by two months.

Chinese authorities also accused Miss Li of "selling her soul" to a foreigner and M Bellefroid of having financed and supported dissident movements.

Dressed in a pink traditional Chinese-style smock, Miss Li said she wanted a rest before making any plans. She is an abstract artist, and said she was looking forward to getting back to painting.



Miss Li: Freed after two years' detention

Miss Li was detained at Liang Xiang, 18 miles south-west of Peking, where she read newspapers, watched television and knitted.

● PARIS: M Bellefroid said he was "mad with joy" at the news of her release, and hoped to marry her as soon as possible. (Diana Geddes writes).

Miss Li's arrest cast a pall over relations between China and the newly-elected French Socialist Government. Her release, two months after President Mitterrand's first official visit to China, is seen as part of a series of measures to improve relations.

The French Government has declined to make any comment, save to say that it "could not be but pleased" by her release.

Hungarian reshuffle may point to further changes

Budapest (AFP) - More top level changes may be on the way in Hungary after the appointment of a new Foreign Minister, and speculation has been revived that Mr Gyorgy Lazaar, the Prime Minister, will step down for health reasons.

It has been known for at least two years that Mr Frigyes Pujta, aged 62, Foreign Minister since 1973, had asked to be relieved of his post for personal reasons. But the choice last week of Mr Peter Varkonyi, aged 52, as his successor came as a surprise to political observers here.

Only last year Mr Varkonyi was appointed secretary for international affairs on the party Central Committee, and reshuffles in the upper reaches of the party usually do not happen so quickly in eastern bloc countries.

Observers also note that the post Mr Varkonyi left is considered to rank higher than his new appointment.

They say the move appears to be a political compromise to bolster the position of Mr Janos Kadar, the party leader, of

whom Mr Varkonyi is known to be a close associate. But the observers do not believe that the move will weaken Mr Varkonyi's position.

Furthermore, Mr Markonyi's replacement as secretary for international affairs on the Central Committee is Mr Matyas Szuros, aged 50, former head of the international section.

Mr Szuros, described as a man cast in the Soviet mould, worked under Mr Varkonyi, and observers believe it unlikely that he will now be in a position of greater power over his former superior.

The reshuffle is unlikely to bring any change in Hungarian foreign policy.

Other changes announced were the appointment of Mr Mihaly Kornidasz, head of the Committee's department of science, education and culture, to head of Hungarian television, and General Sandor Racz as deputy Defence Minister after the retirement of General Pal Kovacs.

FROM THE HALIFAX

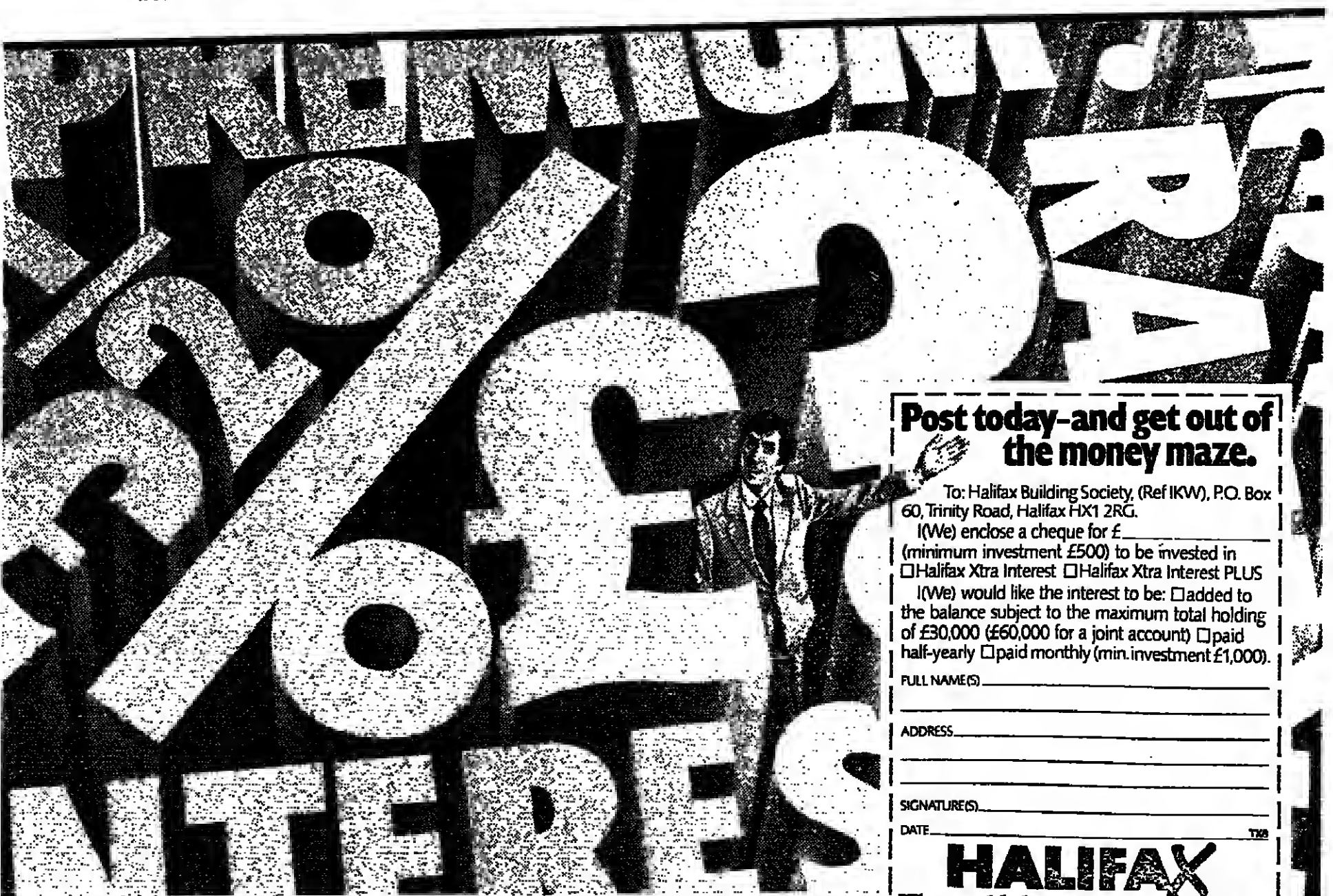
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It is 19 years since Omar Sharif galloped across the world's screens in *Lawrence of Arabia*. Next month, he returns to the stage after driving a generation of women frantic and men to drink. 'I think I started out with an enormous amount of talent', he says. 'Now I am going to find out whether I have totally wasted it or not'.

Old Brown Eyes is back

By Sally Brompton

After a quarter of a century spent playing the kind of film roles that have driven women frantic and men to drink, Omar Sharif is returning to his first love: the stage. And for his re-appearance on the boards, the Egyptian actor has picked the Chichester Festival Theatre, where next month he opens in Terence Rattigan's *The Sleeping Prince*, playing Prince Regent of Carpathia, the character immortalized by Laurence Olivier in the film *The Prince and the Showgirl*.

After a movie career more memorable for his much-acclaimed liquid brown eyes than for his acting ability, it would seem an unnecessary risk for a performer who has been a millionaire several times over and can still command £500,000 or so for three weeks' filming. Omar Sharif is well aware of the dangers but explains: 'I think I started out with an enormous amount of talent. Now I'm going to find out whether I've totally wasted it or not.'

It is 19 years since he first galloped across the world's movie screens astride a camel in *Lawrence of Arabia*. *Dr Zhivago* and *Funny Girl* followed, confirming a buccaneering image which was then exploited in a string of highly forgettable films.

Sharif is the first to acknowledge their mediocrity. 'I've played a lot of bad parts because they were all I was offered. And I needed the money. Now I've arrived at the point in my life where I want to work for pleasure.'

It is a luxury he admits he can afford only by accepting the occasional film part to subsidize his extravagant lifestyle. 'I am not rich', he says, 'but I live like someone who is very rich indeed'. He has gambled away several fortunes in his lifetime, because, he claims, of the intense boredom, frustration and loneliness involved in making an honest bob or two.

'If you lived quite alone in hotel rooms, moving from one country to

another for 15 years, it would occur to you that you needed something in your life. I needed to do something very violently exciting' is how he explains his outlook.

Now that he works less and leads a more regular life, he finds he no longer craves the exhilaration of the gaming tables. But the gambler's spirit remains. Hence Chichester.

He has brought his housekeeper over from Paris to look after him in the elegant town house that is costing him more in rent than the few hundred pounds a week he is earning at the theatre. His housekeeper is a vital part of his bachelor life. After 17 years together, he says of her: 'She is everything the perfect wife should be, without the problems.'

At 51, Sharif is still as sleek as one of his own thoroughbred racehorses, and the much-chronicled charm is greatly in evidence. So is the courtesy. His manners are as immaculate as his carefully casual navy slacks and gleaming white open-necked shirt.

He approached middle age with trepidation. 'Fifty is a frightening sum of years; the beginning of old age. Fifty is a turning point. I think it's kind of sad', he said, and spent his fiftieth birthday sitting alone in his Paris flat. He hates celebrations at the best of times. 'I don't like parties. I loathe Christmas and the New Year. All those celebrations are family things.'

His marriage, to Faten Hamama, the Middle East's most famous actress, lasted 10 years before falling apart when he became a Hollywood star. Their only son is grown up and lives in Canada. Sharif insists that the marriage was very happy and that it was just their careers that came between them. 'Just think of it... I was married at 21, an actor, surrounded by pretty girls, and I never once cheated on my wife. Of all my achievements in life, I think that is what I'm most proud of.'



Sharif in middle age. 'I really am a mother's boy. And very lazy'

Since the parting, speculation about his love life has dominated tabloid newspapers the world over. It has, says Sharif, been greatly exaggerated. 'Contrary to what people think, I haven't had a lot of different girlfriends. I've gone out now and then with a girl because you have to. You can't live totally alone. I've had very short relationships, sexual relationships, but no more than anyone else. Many fewer, in fact. All my friends have more girls than I've ever had.'

He has nothing against remarrying - 'although it's a bit late in the day' - but after 20 years he has grown accustomed to living alone. 'I'm very independent now; I'm not sure I'd be able to live with someone else again.'

The only son of a wealthy timber merchant, he was brought up in Cairo, where he had an 'extraordinarily nice' childhood. He attended Victoria College, the finest school in the Middle East, along with such diverse embryonic celebrities as King Hussein and Adnan Khashoggi. 'If they wanted to', he says, 'the people who went to my school could run the world'. He recalls being good at everything: a gifted scholar, captain of football and cricket, president of the debating and dramatic societies and head boy.

It was acting, however, that fired his ambition, spurred on by a dotting mother who was determined that her son would become a star. Even today he is closer to his mother than to any other person.

'I really am a mother's boy. I adore her and she adores me. She's not just proud of me - she faints when she sees me. She gets hysterical. If she were here now she'd want me to sit on her knee.'

A widow now, she lives in Spain but mother and son talk to each other on the telephone constantly.

'She asks my advice about everything. Everything. Even when my father was alive I was always head of the family and they have always all

asked my advice and done exactly what I say.'

Could such maternal devotion have affected his relationship with other women? He considers the question. 'It might have done', he admits.

In the past Sharif has named actresses Barbra Streisand and Anouk Aimée as the objects of his affection, adding, curiously: 'To have an affair with someone doesn't mean you have to go to bed with them.' Now he confesses: 'I've been in love four times in my life, each time to a famous actress. But I wouldn't say I actually enjoyed it because on each occasion I knew it wouldn't last. Actors and actresses are married to their careers first. Acting is too important to allow you to love someone at the same time.'

The main problem, he says, is that he never meets any 'normal' women. 'I only ever meet actresses and socialites. I'd love to meet a nice secretary like other men do.' He added as an afterthought: 'An intelligent one; not some silly girl.'

Another hazard, it seems, is his reputation as a womanizer. When women first meet him they are immediately on their guard, even hostile. 'It takes such a long time to get all that stuff out of their minds, just to start on a normal basis like other fellows, and I never know whether it's going to be worth it.'

Anyway, he is much more comfortable in the company of men. All his friends are men. 'I find men very silly, actually, but I like their silliness. The child in me wants other children to play with.'

It is what he describes as play that accounts for the main part of Omar Sharif's life. His passions are playing bridge, racing his stable of horses and dining out. 'The reason he spent so much time learning bridge to international standard, he insists, was to avoid working. "I'm very lazy."

He has just returned from Cairo where, by popular demand, he made a television film in Arabic. 'The people there obviously love me dearly and every time I went back they asked me to make a film especially for them. I chose a story of a higher standard than they're used to, to try to bring some culture into their homes.'

After staying away from his homeland for many years, during the Nasser regime, he now goes back regularly.

Now he enjoys the indulgence of just sitting around and talking with his own countrymen. 'I find it very difficult to make real friends in the West because I'm very sentimental and melodramatic in my relationships and western people are very cold fish. They don't like you to hug and kiss them.'

Even women, apparently, get overwhelmed by his affection. 'I'm very demonstrative with women, very emotional. I'm like a little dog, actually. But it's not enough. They need other things as well.' He admires women enormously, their intelligence, their strength, their resilience... but as for liking them - well, he is not too sure about that.

In any event, his entire attention for the time being is focused on the demanding role of Prince Regent of Carpathia. Just learning the lines is a hard task after so many years of shooting a take at a time.

If his performance at Chichester is successful he would like to play Othello. 'It's a part I like and I think that for once a Moor should play the Moor.' His only other ambition is to breed a Derby winner.

Those pipe-dreams apart, Omar Sharif never thinks about the future and never worries about the past. 'I don't want to know too much about myself. I face problems when they come. I've improvised every day of my life.'

A brief pause, then he adds: 'Maybe if I hadn't I'd be a better actor.'

moreover... Miles Kington

Watch your cruising speed...

Last Wednesday, in the middle of the night, I was sitting in a car near Ludlow watching 2ft of floodwater swirl round my gunwale and it occurred to me yet again that we British are always taken completely unawares by conditions like these, for all the world as if we had never done any underwater motoring before in our lives.

So today I am going to answer the most common questions asked about this pretty but absorbing pastime. Cut this column out and keep it in your glove compartment. On second thoughts, cut it out and paste it to the roof above the driver's seat.

How do I know when I have hit flood water?

The first thing you will notice, especially at night, is a great pillar of water rising on either side of your car. Momentarily you will have childhood memories of those funfair big dippers which shot down a ramp and hit a tank of water at 30 mph. If you cannot remember your childhood, you will probably have memories of going in a channel ferry and hitting a very big wave. If by now the car has come to a standstill, you will get out to have a look. A moment later, you will be sorry you did so.

What should I do if the car refuses to move through the water?

Rather than sit in your seat and wait to be drowned, it is best to manoeuvre yourself through the window and on to the roof. This can be tricky; and it's best to practise at home before you set out. Even when on the roof you are, don't forget, still legally in charge of the car and must wear a seat belt. The average modern belt is long enough to reach to the roof.

What if I'm parked illegally?

Although this has never been tested in a court of law, parking regulations in Britain are thought to apply only to motoring on land. There are no regulations as far as I know against parking in a navigable river. Yellow lines are probably invalid below water, as well as being impossible to see. But remember that the laws of the sea will apply to your car, which is now theoretically an ocean-going vessel.

Will I have to hoist a flag or something?

No, no. Navigation lights will be quite enough - red on the passenger side, green on the driver's side and a white light on top of the wireless aerial. Cars give way to lorries, and company cars should, as a matter of courtesy give way to private cars. Salvage laws also come into operation, and if you find an abandoned car it is theoretically, while in water, all yours for the taking.

How can I go about getting help?

The first people to come by will almost certainly be a TV outside broadcast van, getting pictures for the local news. Refuse all offers of help from them. All they want to do is tow you into deeper water for a better picture. And before they start filming, haggle about money with them. This is the only language they understand. Try asking them for a form which will allow you to claim against the car as overnight accommodation. If anyone else comes past, just ask them to pull you to dry or at least exposed ground. You may have to go through certain simple Customs formalities, but as long as you started your journey in Britain and are not carrying drugs you should be all right.

Can the driver of an underwater car have the power, like ships' captains, to marry passengers on board?

Only if you are a vicar. It is a total myth about ships' captains. But a brief shipboard romance can do no harm and will while away the time until the waters recede.

Is there nothing else I can do to get help?

Yes. Send forth a dove on the face of the waters.

What if it comes back empty handed, so to speak?

Then the floods in Britain are very much worse than you first thought.

Win the Award that symbolises your company's success.

The Queen's Awards for Exports and Technology are highly prized by industry and commerce. They carry considerable prestige and are presented annually to companies for outstanding contributions to exports or technology, or both.

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From old, established crafts to modern technology (it has to be UK based though.)

Entries must be in by 31st October.

For further details send the coupon to The Secretary, The Queen's Awards Office,

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Please send me details and entry form.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Export Technology Both
(tick as appropriate)

Entry closes on 31st October 1983.

The demon drink

A recent book, *Psychology - A science in Conflict*, contends that psychologists disagree far more than other scientists about the nature of their science - or art.

What is an interesting fact to one psychologist will strike another one as a trite trifle, and a not well proven one at that. So, read these findings with care.

The fear that drink will rot the brain has oozed been partially confirmed for the too fortified over-forties at least. Mark Goldman and colleagues at Wayne State University kept 31 alcoholics off the bottle for three months.

After two to three weeks without a drink young alcoholics recovered completely. They were as good as their sober controls at fitting pegs into holes at speed, at matching patterns and keeping track of moving objects. But those who were older than 40 did not recover even after three dry months. The most surprising finding, Goldman claims, is that this failure to recover has nothing to do with how long subjects had had a drink problem. Some men over 40 had been alcoholics for only four years; others for 35 years. Neither group managed to get their visual and spatial performance back to normal. The moral seems to be drink till you're 40 and then join a temperance club.

Dog's life

Pavlov's dogs are among the most famous beasts in psychology. One can only wonder what Pavlov would have made of Daniel Tortora of RemBeh-Con Inc (which must stand, I suppose, O Brave New World, for Remedial Behaviour Conditioning Inc). Tortora has spent years in 'the elimination of avoidance-motivated aggression in dogs'. He has devised a training programme in which dogs learn to play and are given a variety of challenges so that they conquer fear and their desire to snarl, snay and bite. Tortora thinks humans can also be trained to be 'prosocial' with a 'safety training programme' in which

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: PSYCHOLOGY



Pavlov: beastly experiments they would be given a series of 'escalating but bearable challenges'. Its adepts argued that they had nothing to fear from scientific investigation. One can measure the physiological miracles that meditation produced - lower heart rate, less stressful arousal and so on. Studies have certainly established that when meditating a person's heart rate and blood pressure tend to go down, but according to David Holmes and colleagues at Kansas University, no one has really done a methodological comparison of those who meditate regularly and those who, guru-less, just rest.

Stress equality

Immigrant groups are complaining that far too many blacks in Britain end up in psychiatric hospitals. The values of psychiatrists are white; the criteria by which patients are judged sane or insane are those of a white society. A rumbustious Rastafarian may convince a psychiatrist all too easily that he needs a spell in the bin. What is playful in culture may appear pathological in ours.

In Los Angeles, a survey of 1,003 families has tried to discover whether blacks, 'Anglos' or Hispanics expressed depression in different ways. Crudely put, were the blues of 'whites' the same blues as the blues of blacks?

Members of the 1,003 families were interviewed for an hour and a quarter. Questions covered everything from how often they had thought of suicide to how many pleasant thoughts they had daily. The results showed that there seemed to be little difference between the groups' experiences of depression. The Hispanics, however, reported fewer feelings of well-being than the others.

Los Angeles is not London. But this study does suggest that it would be

Rest in peace

Transcendental meditation was one of the great fads of the Swinging Sixties. Its adepts argued that they had nothing to fear from scientific investigation. One can measure the physiological miracles that meditation produced - lower heart rate, less stressful arousal and so on. Studies have certainly established that when meditating a person's heart rate and blood pressure tend to go down, but according to David Holmes and colleagues at Kansas University, no one has really done a methodological comparison of those who meditate regularly and those who, guru-less, just rest.

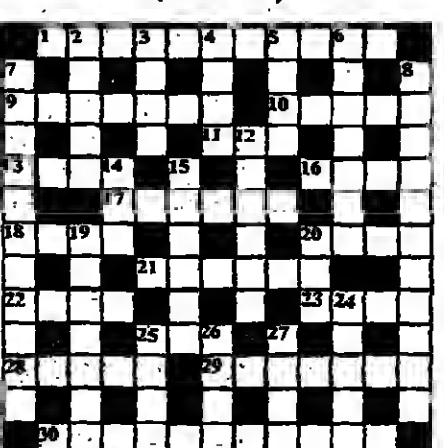
Pram sense

One of the most thriving fields in psychology is that of child development. Very young infants are constantly found to have unlikely, precocious abilities which run counter to old theories.

A team at Vanderbilt University led by E. Reiser recently discovered that infants of about 12 months can find their way to their mothers through a maze after being lifted to give them a good view of its intricacies from above. Put down near the start, they remember enough of the lay-out quickly to pick out the route back to mother.

David Cohen

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 100)



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Finish (11) | 2 Motivate (5) |
| 3 Sea god (7) | 3 Friend (4) |
| 10 Hiding place (5) | 4 Christmas (4) |
| 11 Sixth note (3) | 5 Tickle (4) |
| 13 Unusually (4) | 6 Affected charm (7) |
| 16 Start (4) | 7 Investigators (11) |
| 17 Dig up (6) | 8 Air circulation (11) |
| 18 Sodium chloride (4) | 12 Marzipan source (6) |
| 20 W Indian shrub (4) | 14 Sill (3) |
| 21 Victor (6) | 15 Shill (3) |
| 22 Zigzag course (4) | 16 Glossy coating (7) |
| 23 Small nose (3) | 19 North's vessel (3) |
| 25 Glide over snow (3) | 24 Orchard fruit (3) |
| 28 Uneven (5) | 25 Avoid (4) |
| 29 Tridactylus ballad (7) | 26 Freezes (4) |
| 30 Fashion creator (11) | 27 Form a lump (4) |
- SOLUTION TO No 99
ACROSS: 1 Picture 5 Inter 8 Con 9 Skillful
10 Tunic 11 Fear 12 Turbine 14 Choreographer
16 Washbasin 18 Rag 21 Thumb 22 Bracket
23 Leo 24 Rocky 25 Press-up
DOWN: 1 Post 2 Chime 3 Unforgettable 4 Eclat
5 Intermarriage 6 Tannish 7 Rocketry 13 Icy
water 15 Obscure 17 Bobop 19 Pokes 20 Stop

MODERN TIMES

A sideways look at the British way of life

If there is an animal in British society more beloved of man than the horse, it is keeping very quiet. Not even the dog, allegedly my best friend, can inspire the pitch of affection commanded by the equine species. I must confess at the outset that the horse excites in me little more than terror and grudging envy: terror, because of his or her proven ability to fling me into the air like a hay bale, and envy because of his or her capacity to circle Aintree at the speed of a family saloon and be insured for sums of up to £7 million. I feel that with either of these attributes I would enhance incalculably the esteem in which I am held by society in general and my wife in particular.

But as one without such high performance in the areas of speed and stamina, it is my lot to admire those creatures who possess it, and to note,

mostly with astonishment, the way in which its qualities have rendered it so humanoid. I suppose it speaks well for mankind's sense of gratitude that we give the honour of near-equality to animals that have served us so tirelessly in matters military, agrarian and hedonistic. Take this for example, a small zoo news item in *The Times* last year recording the passing of Sinbad, the horse used by President Reagan when he hosted the Western television series *Death Valley Days*. Here is the embryo of a respect usually evinced by human obituarists: "Sinbad was retired from show business several years ago and spent his time munching alfalfa and entertaining children". I would attempt a joke about how wrong it is for anyone, horses included, to munch entertaining children, were I not afraid that Sinbad's surviving relatives would sue.

Or take the brief but spirited correspondence on our letters page last December about the matter of honours for horses, after the suggestion that deserving cases be rewarded with medals had been derided in the Commons. One correspondent reminded us that Vonolo, a 14.2 hand grey Arabian, ridden by Lord Roberts in the 313-mile expedition for the relief of Kandahar, received by special permission of Queen Victoria the Afghan Medal with four clasps and the Kabul Kandahar

Star. In 1897 at the ripe old age of 26, wearing his honours, he carried Roberts in the Diamond Jubilee procession.

These days, of course, the horse's military role is almost entirely ceremonial, and its industrial function has declined dramatically; 35 years ago there were no fewer than 47,000 pit ponies in this country hauling coal for long distances thousands of feet below the surface. Now there are barely 100, retained for drawing supplies through areas of the mines which are either impossible or uneconomic to modernize.

No such dwindling in the ranks of what might be termed the leisure horse which, in its several manifestations has almost as many sorts and conditions as the human. None is more popular than the child's pony, so often the homely precursor of boys in the affections of a faddist daughter. They (the ponies, not the boys) can still be had for as little as £300 with a little judicious research, but the minefield is well charted: the pony, like the boy of later years perhaps, is outgrown and a replacement sought, with all the attendant heartaches.

In almost every category, it seems, the impulse towards horse ownership is linked inextricably to

the competitive spirit; the child's pony class is no exception, with the ever present lure of the gymkhana and Pony Club. Nor is that of the polo pony, almost always a four-figure investment, and exclusively the province of the AB socio-economic group. Few owner/players would admit to the charge of running upper-class motor bikes, but it is apt enough. Then we have the breeders, whose number includes the Duchess of Devonshire with her Shetlands at Chatsworth and the Queen herself, with her fat black fell ponies at Balmoral. Neither of these ladies, I agree, need feel the need to be competitive, as they are already winners on most conventional criteria, yet can there ever be a total absence of edgy comparison where offspring are concerned? I doubt it.

Finally we come to the Private Drivers and the Trotters, vehicle people, respectively the Duke of Edinburgh and Old Stepfords of the equestrian spectrum, and the Commercial Drivers, of which the Whitebread dray men are the most famous example. For my part, I would be happy with the little piebald mare from the stables on the common, whose back is so low that my feet would scrape the ground reassuringly. And if she is not available, then I shall stick to Shanks's Pony.

Alan Franks

Penny Perrick

Supporting high-fibre... sweetly

A million fewer cigarette smokers since 1980. This pronouncement from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys is sweet music to the Brown Rice Brigade, a group with whom I am unceasingly allied. I totally support the BRB's stand against unhealthy living, their ashtrayless houses, their alfalfa sprout incubators, the nine un-chemically treated bean rows in their bee-humming glade.

Where I part company with the high fibre intake enthusiasts is over the degree of thuggery permissible in the fight to stamp out hamburgers and Harvey Wallbangers. I believe in mannerly behaviour towards my fellow man, even if he stars three heaped spoonfuls of deadly white sugar into his instant coffee and then puts the damp spoon back in the sugar bowl.

More obsessive converts of the good life are less peaceably inclined. In cinemas they thump somebody painfully on the shoulder while informing him that he has lit up in a no-smoking area. In restaurants they demand to know the whereabouts of stock cubes and other hidden poisons. Their latest plan is to force the Department of Health to publish a shock report on the effects of the nation's sluggish, salty and sugary diet. Following which, I suppose, these hushybedies will insist on stiff fines for being in possession of a packet of Smarties.

How French fries score over cranky Yanks

No one will deny that a soyaburger is better for you than a bag of chips, but before getting too faddy about food it's as well to reflect on some findings by Dr Roy Roseman, cardiologist and senior research physician at Stanford Research Institute. Dr Roseman believes that health is "a psychosocial rather than a biological state" and to prove it he did some comparative research on groups of Parisians and Americans.

The French sat slumped for hours over long, heavy meals, washed down with wine cemented with Gauloises. The Americans lived more the sort of life advocated by Jane Fonda, the kind that calls for a scattering of wheatgerm and loatards. Not surprisingly, the Parisians had higher blood pressure. They also had less than a third of the heart-attack rate of the Americans, which Dr Roseman attributed to the fact that their lives were rich in friends and fun as well as fats and fags. Sometimes a couple of gins and few laughs will do more to put the roses back in your cheeks than a bowl of grated carrots and a yoga class.

The priggish and militant disapproval towards the things that most people like - an ice-cold beer in a smoky pub, a bar of chocolate on a cushion-filled sofa - is likely to make converts. Better to concentrate on describing the effects of too frequent self-indulgence: the searing pain of a heart attack, the ghastly sweaty tiredness from carrying too much weight around.

The height of uglamour in Hollywood Road

This message isn't getting home. On television recently a woman was trying to get down to the weight prescribed by her doctor by having her jaws wired together. She was not looking forward to a healthier life once her immense girth had been fined down to manageable proportions. The reason she wanted to hit her target weight, she declared through literally clenched teeth, was "so that I'll be able to eat my Christmas dinner".

Nu killjoy report from the Department of Health will put her off her brandy butter: a tour around the cardiac ward might. The Brown Rice Brigade prefers more puritan methods and has just scored a triumph in Hollywood Road, a street in Fulham with pubs, Chinese restaurants and delicatessens selling home-made chocolate fudge cake. In the middle of this backsliders' paradise has appeared something billed as "London's first non-alccoholic art gallery". Inside, the paintings are as innocuous as the fruit juice cocktails. A sign of bleak times ahead.

Lady Howe, currently swotting at the London School of Economics and Mrs Cecil Parkinson, now engaged in postgraduate work at Brunel University, are two of the 50,000 or so mature students now treading the same path as the heroine of Willy Russell's play, *Educating Rita*, that academically inclined young woman who found that education, like love, can be better second time around. If the Government-backed Further Education Unit has its way, thousands more under-educated Ritass will find it easier to get into colleges and universities.

Mature students stick to their courses, often in spite of family and financial pressures, don't throw tomatoes at visiting politicians or chuck paint over the college statuary. Most of them emerge with respectable degrees and diplomas too. Admissions tutors, faced with more of these goody two-shoes might well prefer them to a loutish eighteen-year-old, however brilliant his A-levels. Rita may yet find herself lolling in a punt on the Cherwell.

Tomorrow: Suzy Menkes brings out the beastly in fashion

Making horse-sense of it all



FALL GUY

Ben Burton
Hunter

I was 40 before I got on a horse, although I was a farmer's son and brought up in a hunting family. Then I moved to this farm in Warwickshire and found myself right in the middle of good hunting country (the Bicester and Warden

Hill). I found everyone was mad on hunting. The children were growing up and were into ponies, so I thought I would have a go and on the spur of the moment bought a horse - a big old grey cob. I thought "I'd look quite good on that". He had just about every thing possible wrong with him, but he got me going. I used to fall off a hell of a lot - it was worst of all when the horse walked all over you, but luckily I never broke anything. Now I'm 50 and I go as well as the best of them and I don't fall off as much; but I

still get into some awkward situations... jumped over a car one day - yes there were people in it - it was a bit hairy. I have three hunters now - I like to have two out, get my wife to bring the second in the afternoon. Hunters know when it's a hunting day - stop being docile and get on their toes. They know more about hunting than we do. We take them on holiday at the end of the season to Exmoor and get fit together... I've only got so many hunting days, left and I don't intend to miss any of them.



JUMPED UP

Jackie Whitaker
Eventer

I've got two horses that are now Intermediate - Moonstruck and Royal Park - and one that has yet to do anything - Seacope. I've had Moonstruck for six years. We were looking for a hunter for my father and we bought him. He was very thin, had been racing on the flat but was no good at that presumably. He was no good at bunting either. So when he had gathered some strength I started schooling him and found that he was a stunning jumper. Royal Park I bought at the Ascot sales. She's a chestnut mare and they're not very popular - but I like them. When they're good they're very, very, good. The youngest,

Seacope, I really think could be the best - he's got a lot of ability but it has taken him a long time to trust me, nearly a year so far. I think he must have been abused a little, treated roughly when he was very young - whatever it was it made him very wary. But I have hopes that he will be a Badminton winner. I ride every moment that I'm not working, and I spend all the money I earn on it and then some. I like eventing so much because it's an all-round sport, combining cross-country, dressage and show jumping. I work peculiar hours, which helps, but I spend two hours either end of the day feeding and mucking out, then anything up to six hours a day riding. I do it because I love it, because one can always achieve more. I think we love horses so much because the good old British are naturally very reserved. They can communicate better with animals than with people - and horses are very responsive.

WORK HORSE

Geoffrey Marton
Heavy horse owner

To the early days everyone thought I was mad to work the farm entirely with horses. Now I think their attitude has changed a bit. Today I'm looking out no a cloudless sky, and I find it difficult to remember the dreadful wet spring. A lot of farmers didn't get their crops planted. We did. I've always believed we would need to work with horses again - it won't happen overnight, but it will happen, as alternative resources run dry or out or are just unsuitable. I farm with Shires, Clydesdales, Percherons and Ardennes. We are about two thirds arable and at some time we do almost all the work with horses - manuring, tilling, ploughing, harrowing, cultivating, drilling, hay-making, harvesting. I'm not against the new technology although - we use a fair amount - but I believe in trying to get the best from the old ways and the new. I think the



British have a feeling for horses for several reasons. If you go back far enough, to the year 1000 AD say, the Germanic people - and that includes us - held the horse sacred, more than a source of food or as a work animal. We've never eaten horse flesh, like the French, though I sometimes think it would dignify the horse if we did rather than feeding it

to our animals. As a nation we're a bit posy about them. I've a great feeling for them but people credit them with far more intelligence than they have: they're dopey creatures with a wonderful memory but a pig is far superior as far as intelligence goes. When you get a really clever one he's nothing but trouble.



PONY TAILS

Helen Farceda
11-year-old pony owner

My sister and I had a pony between us, called Prince. When I was about five or six I got my own pony, called Isabel, and my sister had one called Bobby Socks. And then I had Blackjack, who did everything well. He was a very good hunter - and a good show jumper. I started winning with Blackjack and I was very sad when he went. We sold him to someone who had just joined the Pony Club and I still see him

around. I think he still recognizes me... Then I had a pony called Oakley Spring Martin (I call him Martin and I've still got him. He's very lively but he can do quite a good dressage test, bumps and showjumps well. Then there's Murphy - we got him from Ireland from a man called Paddy Murphy but his real name is Ballymacree Lad. He started off as my sister's but now he's mine too. He's very beautiful. On our television at the moment there are seven cups from Blackjack. But I'm going to boarding school next term and I don't know whether I'll be able to stay so attached to them since I shall only see them when I come home for the holidays.



FLAT OUT

Norman Stephens
Racehorse owner

I'd always loved racing but I came to be an owner by accident. A close friend had a share in a horse and I thought if he has one, why shouldn't I? It's difficult to make horses pay their way. Whatever you pay for the horse - and it could be between £1,000 and £1,000,000 for a flat horse - you've got to be talking about £150 a week to keep in a small yard, or £200 if you've got a potential Derby

winner with say Mr Stoute, Guy Harwood or Major Hern. Then there's the jockey's fees, travelling expenses etc... On Edge is the only flat horse I have. I bought him at Doncaster with a career in hurdlings in mind... he seemed strong, muscular, the sort to jump. Regrettably this was not true. He ran twice and was last twice. John Speering (On Edge's trainer) and I decided to give him one last chance on the flat. He won his first race for me at Kempton. We discovered his secret, to hold him up until you know you've lost the race and then let him go... He cost £750 and to date has won over £42,000. He's one to a million. I know I shall never be so lucky again.



FOAL AHEAD

The Marchioness of Tavistock
Breeder/Owner

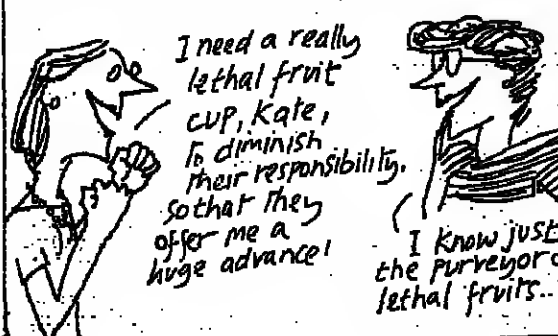
I bought my first filly foal in 1965. Until I bought Mrs Moss I was getting depressed: it was not a question of how many won, but of how many were not last. I bought her in 1975 to a sale, I saw this pretty little mare standing at £1,800 - it seemed a ridiculous price so I put my hand up. She hadn't reached her reserve and I thought "my husband's going to murder me!" She was in foal, and that was sold for £1,600 the following year

which wasn't so bad... Then in '78 she had a dreadful time with her foal. I begged my husband to let me keep the foal... We called her Pushy and took her to Henry Cecil. She won at Ascot, ran eight times and was placed in seven out of her eight races! Mrs Moss is a most remarkable mother: her nine offspring include Socks Up, Pitstop, Put Upon, and the three-times-out, three-times-winner Precocious. One has to treat one's animals like one's children - to teach them to set their sights as high as possible. I have put all the births in *The Times*: "In Mrs Moss, a son (or daughter), at Woburn..."

Judy Froshaug

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE

FLAVIA HAS INVITED HER PUBLISHERS FOR DRINKS, AND ASKS HER FRIEND, KATE FANG, FOR ADVICE...



I need a really lethal fruit cup, Kate, to diminish their responsibility, so that they offer me a huge advance!

I know just the purveyor of lethal fruits...

AT THE ROUGH INNER CITY GREENGROCER'S...



1lb of throwing tomatoes Please

I can do you eating tomatoes 60p, cooking tomatoes 40p, throwing tomatoes 10p.

1lb of throwing tomatoes Please



And what about some skidding bananas? Just like bananas only with the gibles removed - EEC regulations.

Lovely avocados! - Ready for breaking your teeth on now! Could do someone a nasty injury, these.



How wild are these strawberryberries? Uncontrollable?

THE PUBLISHERS ARRIVE...



My goodness, Flavia! This kick has got a punch in it!

I call it Hooligan's Fizz.

Come inside and say that!

Name your price...

THE PUBLISHERS ARRIVE...



This is going straight to my cheque book.

THE TIMES DIARY

Goya, going, gone?

Spain's prosecutor-general has taken up the case of a missing portrait by Goya which Franco once wanted to present to Hitler. The portrait of the Marquessa of Santa Cruz attracted the Caudillo because it showed her wearing a swastika pendant. The portrait was bought in London in the early 1940s at a nod from Franco to a Spanish industrialist who was then to hand the painting over. But Franco lost interest as the Third Reich filtered. The industrialist's heirs now deny suspicions that the portrait has left Spain in defiance of the country's art export laws.

Double exposure

My lucky colleagues in the Soviet press can have it both ways. The weekly journal *New Times* published a photo of commandos patrolling the central American bush, and said it showed "Nicaraguan border guards constantly on combat preparedness against US-backed counter-revolutionaries." The next day the army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) published the same picture, but with the men described as "US-armed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries who have returned to their native land with the sole aim of overthrowing its lawful government."

When the venerable but now rather tired Nationwide is replaced in the autumn by 60 Minutes, Nick Ross of BBC's Breakfast Time and Fran Morrison, who presents current affairs programmes later in the day, are widely tipped for the presenter's role. Each has done a more than competent job, and neither is known - at least not publicly - to waste time by throwing it over party guests.

Piano discord

Not a good run for the pianist Bernard Roberts. His performance of a Mozart concerto tomorrow at Guildhall has been cancelled because the amplified Acker Bilk band is due to perform just outside the building at the same time. Now his 1985 tour of India and Hongkong has been called off with the British Council declining to help subsidize his travel and hotel costs. The British work for the tour was to have been Stephen Dodgson's Third Piano Sonata, which Radio Hongkong wanted to record in the studio. Classical music in India is described by the British Council as "very much a minority interest".

Under raps

A Berkshire businessman arranged a delivery of a scrap motor from America as a test of a new method of packaging. After convincing H.M. Customs and Excise that the contents of the package were of no intrinsic value, but that the packaging was, he eventually received the parcel, on which postal charges were \$74.50. The Customs had opened it, and forwarded it loosely wrapped in cardboard and string.

Marsh mellow

As a founder member of the British Academy of Gastronomes, PHS has a suggestion: why does not some enterprising restaurateur bring the seasonal delicacy, marsh sphincter, to London? It is called "pompier man's asparagus", *salsicchio europeo* gathered from muddy beaches is now on sale at the roadside, in markets and in restaurants on the north Norfolk coast. Washed well, boiled briefly and served with butter, it is delicious, and, as far as I know, unobtainable in London.

Richard Simmonds, Tory MEP for Maidenhead, who has given the job of inquiring into video nasty films for the European Parliament, says he has never seen one, but is no stranger to gore. He started his working life in a slaughterhouse.

Polly-phonics

The Buxton Festival is holding auditions for its two operatic productions on Wednesday at the Haddon Hall Hotel in the town. All the participants will be animals and birds, because the parts they are seeking to fill are for two falcons, two rabbits and a performing dog in *Vivaldi's Griselda*, and for two doves and a dead parrot in *Gounod's La Colombe*. The falcons will be tested for handleability by the singers. One rabbit must be patient enough to stay on stage 20 minutes. The leading contender for the canine part can mime, and the two doves are required to home reliably into the wings. The extrovert polly, in the story at least, gets eaten, but a stuffed one would probably do.

Bowed under

The wrapper on an imported cello string read, in English: "Thanks to this type of metal strings, it has been possible to achieve both the softness of sound and the softness, to fill that, one can recall the bowel stirrings of the past, but this type far better than the latter owing to the promptness in emission and the ready and stable tuning."

New Scientist has spotted an elementary mistake in a book intended to introduce primary school-children to the facts of sexual reproduction. Published by Adam and Charles Black, the book is called *The Dandelion*. There's the rub, for our dandelions are in fact asexual, and reproduce without fertilization, by parthenogenesis. When the kiddies find out, how will they ever believe what they are told about the birds and the bees?

The hanging debate: Teddy Taylor puts the case for restoration

A vote for the moral majority

One of the most interesting features of the capital punishment debate has been the remarkable activity of the liberal-progressive establishment in seeking to create a climate of opinion hostile to measures which it regards as unappealing.

We have seen in the opinion and news columns of the heavier press a virtual flood of propaganda designed to show that the case for capital punishment is bogus and unfounded and that, in any event, the exercise has no prospect of being implemented.

Last week the formidable and respected *Economist* abandoned its usual conservative cover for a dramatic "The case against hanging". One of the main points of the three-page article was that capital punishment would result in massive confusion and delays of years because of the appeals which convicted murderers could make to the European Court. It went on: "Britain's membership of a European Convention which almost certainly rules out execution means that appeals from British courts would be further subject to delay, and the penalty would be even more uncertainly applied."

Far from providing scope for further appeals, Article 2 of the European Convention states specifically that: No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of a sentence of a court following his conviction of a crime for which this penalty is provided by law".

In short, while the European Court has immense powers to hear appeals about a vast range of penalties, lawful capital punishment is specifically excluded. And while it is true that a number of European states joined to add a protocol to the declaration on the abolition of the death penalty, the British Government recently made it clear that it would not be bound by this in any way.

MPs have been subjected to a series of statements and opinions from pressure groups and institutions. Recently I had a message from the general secretary of the British Council of Churches advising me that its executive committee and "Christian leaders" had agreed that there was "substantial doubt that capital punishment had any significant deterrent effect".

Home Office figures show that in the 20 years from 1945 to 1964, when capital punishment was in force, and despite a large increase in general crime, there was no increase in the number of unlawful killings. In fact it could be argued that the total actually fell; there were 347 in 1946, and 296 in 1964.

Since abolition the figures have climbed steadily to an average of 590 a year in the last five years. But even if these figures are discounted, surely even the British Council of Churches cannot ignore the sharp increase in the use of guns by criminals since abolition. In the last 10 years, the number of

offences involving firearms has risen from about 1,700 a year to more than 8,000.

There have been repeated news stories that the Government and even the Prime Minister are "secretly" opposed to the reintroduction of capital punishment; that Conservative Whips have been speaking in dark corners to innocent backbenchers; and that even if the vote was in favour, no Bill would be presented for at least two years.

None of these reports has any foundation. I have heard not a breath of any Whip seeking to influence anyone on the issue, and the Prime Minister made it abundantly clear that a positive vote on Wednesday would be followed by a Bill in Government time this session.

The liberal-progressives have won most of the battles, at least until this week. The flood of permissive legislation which has gone through the Commons since the 1960s, and the failure to amend any of these measures, is a tribute to their success. But I believe that their luck is coming to an end and that Wednesday might see the beginning of the fight back by those disparagingly referred to, but accurately described, as the moral majority.

The author is Conservative MP for Southend, East. Tomorrow: Lord Carr of Hadley, the case against.

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Who will follow Father Banda?

Dr Hastings Banda, now probably in his mid-eighties, does not merely dominate Malawi. A stern Victorian paternalist, who brooks no criticism and treats his ministers like wayward children, he has become the semi-deified object of a personality cult which has few parallels anywhere else in the world.

Dr Banda is Life President of both the nation and the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), the only legal political organization. He also acts as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and Agriculture. He appoints all ministers and senior party officials, and enforces an old-fashioned puritanism inherited from the Scottish missionaries who gave him his first schooling and baptized him into the Church of Scotland, of which he is an ordained elder.

Drinking is strongly discouraged, and women are forbidden to wear mini-skirts and slacks. Men cannot grow their hair below mouth level. Films, newspapers, magazines, and books are strictly censored. There is no television, though Dr Banda has a set and is rumoured to pick up BBC transmissions via his own earth satellite station.

The President's periodic excursions among his subjects follow a well-established routine. First, the wailing sirens and the motorcade, containing usually two ambulances and, mysteriously, a fire engine; then the adulatory reception by party officials and dancing by groups of *mbumba*, ample-bosomed ladies in brightly coloured shifts decorated with portraits of the President. Dr Banda himself, however hot the weather, never varies his wardrobe of black bomburg hat, dark three-piece western suit, walking stick and fly whisk.

It is hardly surprising that Malawians find difficulty in imagining life without him. The prospect is no less intriguing for the country's neighbours, for under Dr Banda's rule, Malawi has been the odd-man-out in southern Africa. Full diplomatic relations were established more than 10 years ago with apartheid-practising South Africa,

and Dr Banda has never made any secret of his impatience with the pretensions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), whose "diplomacy of bluff and bluster" he delighted in puncturing in the days when he still bothered to attend its meetings.

At home, he spurned the fashionable post-colonial nostrums of free education and health services for the masses, and rapid Africanization of the civil service, emphasizing instead rural development and government support for the peasant smallholder. The rest is that while few Malawians have a secondary education, even fewer starve. The country, though very poor, grows enough maize free of the disfiguring shanty towns produced by the exodus of the rural destitute elsewhere in the world.

Malawi's unique relationship with South Africa has undoubtedly brought material benefits. The South Africans largely financed the construction of the new capital of Lilongwe and the new rail spur linking it to the port of Nacala on the Mozambique coast; and more recently built a 180,000-ton grain silo north of the city, which can store an entire season's marketed maize crop. The price Dr Banda paid, particularly after the collapse of white-minority regimes in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, was to be cold-shouldered and treated as an Uncle Tom by other African states less ready to acknowledge their economic links with Pretoria.

In 1980, Dr Banda made a move to come in from the cold by joining the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC). The aim of this grouping of nine black states is to reduce their economic dependence on South Africa, in the first instance by improving port facilities in Mozambique, Tanzania and Angola and the road and rail links serving them. This is of obvious interest for Malawi and other landlocked members of SADCC.

At present, for example, neither



Banda: in his eighties, but still no certain successor

Nacala nor Beira, further south, which are Malawi's natural outlets to the sea, can handle the tobacco exports, its main foreign exchange earner, have to take an expensive and circuitous route via Zambia, where they are transferred to a pontoon ferry and taken across the Zambezi into Botswana, and thence to Zeerust and the South African rail link to Durban.

Malawi's imports are no less badly affected. Some 130,000 tons of fertilizer ordered by Malawi have been held up in Mozambique ports for the past 12 to 18 months, forcing Dr Banda to turn to South Africa for supplies. Similarly, nearly all Malawi's fuel imports come via South Africa, with the result that about half the price of petrol in Malawi is accounted for by transport costs.

While Malawi's special position has to some extent now been accepted by its neighbours, Dr Banda's relations with most other SADCC leaders remain cool at best. He never concealed his dislike for Robert Mugabe. He is barely on speaking terms with Presidents Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) and

Samora Machel (Mozambique), and there is a danger of territorial disputes with both their countries should oil ever be discovered in Lake Malawi in economically viable quantities.

Dr Banda enjoys a warmer personal rapport with President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia. Both belong to the Chewa tribe, and both believe there is merit in maintaining a dialogue with South Africa. Dr Kaunda irritated other African leaders by meeting Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, under a tree on the Botswana-South African border in April, 1982.

Both Tanzania and Mozambique, and more recently Zambia, have provided a haven for exiled Malawian opposition groups, none of which appears to have much following inside the country. The most substantial opposition figure is Dr Orton Chirwa, a former Justice Minister, now under sentence of death for treason, having been lured back to Malawi in late 1981.

No Gladstonian liberal himself, Dr Chirwa could be a contender for the succession if he survives (the President can commute the death sentence) and would probably like to pursue a more conventional African foreign policy, though whether he or any one else could now afford to sever diplomatic ties with South Africa is another matter.

It seems that earlier this year Dr Banda suggested devolving some powers on to the shoulders of John Tembo, the governor of the Reserve Bank, possibly by creating the office of Prime Minister or Vice President for him. An unpopular figure, Mr Tembo appears to draw his main strength from the fact that he is the uncle of Miss Cecilia Kadzamba, Dr Banda's official hostess and consort and a woman of considerable power and influence.

The move to advance him was opposed by several Cabinet ministers, including Dick Matenje and Aaron Gadhama, both popular figures who shortly afterwards died in what was officially described as a car accident. Independent sources, however, claim to have eye-witness evidence that they were shot, probably by low-level members of the police, though on whose instructions remains unclear.

Michael Hornsby

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

One more nail in the unions' coffin

The council workers at Merthyr Tydfil had been on strike. The dispute, now settled, did not concern me directly, as in the course of an average week I make little or no use of their services, but it did and does concern the citizens of that picturesque and legend-haunted spot, and most particularly a Mr Francis Pippins, whose wife recently died. The late Mrs Pippins had expressed a wish to be buried in a particular local cemetery, but the municipal gravediggers were among those on strike, the local undertaker was unwilling to cross the picket-lines after having received a threatening telephone call, and Mr Pippins, mindful of his wife's last request, would not agree (this was the reluctant undertaker's advice to him) to have her cremated instead, and to have her ashes stored until the dispute had resolved itself.

The deadlock was broken by the family and friends of Mrs Pippins, who rallied round and dug her grave themselves, defying the pickets at the cemetery gate and incidentally achieving a notable "first" for the do-it-yourself movement. But when the burial of Mrs Pippins in the grave dug by her closest circle, was about to take place, it was discovered that the grave had been filled in and turfed over.

Leaders of the union concerned in the dispute denied that any of their members was responsible for this action, and I propose to ignore the denial, on the ground that, try as I may, I cannot summon up sufficient gullibility to believe it.

It is generally agreed that one of the most substantial contributions to the decline of support for the Labour Party at the last two general elections has been the behaviour of the trade union movement; recognition of the fact may be coloured by rejoicing or regret, but I doubt if Mr Eric Heffer himself, surely the most credulous figure since the investors in the South Sea Bubble, would maintain that it is not true. From the "winter of discontent" that felled Mr Callaghan to the huffooneries of

Mr Scargill, and from the antics of "Red Robbo" to the more subtle but hardly less outrageous antics of Welsh Mossie, the unions have for years been sowing a crop that Mrs Thatcher has been effortlessly reaping wherever the final form of the legislation that Mr Tebbit is to introduce in this Parliament, it will be second in popularity only to a proposal to abolish the income tax, with the additional advantage that it is actually going to happen.

Now if you can imagine any action better calculated to reinforce and extend that feeling than what happened at Merthyr Tydfil you must have a normal imagination. Yet there is a paradox in the story, as in most union horror stories. The men who prevented a widower from burying his dead wife, and those who went so far as to fill in her grave when he tried to do so without their agreement, surely did not want to incur public odium for themselves, their organization and the unions in general.

What was it that, in leading them into behaviour that was not of men but of dogs, simultaneously blinded them to the effect that the action must inevitably have on the people of the area? Tim Jones, who wrote the original *Times* story of the incident, assures me that the filling in of the grave lost the strikers virtually all the remaining public sympathy they had, but the assurance even of so meticulous a reporter as Mr Jones was quite unnecessary; anyone with a quarter of a brain could deduce that that would be the inevitable result. The question is: why could the strikers not deduce it?

The answer goes to the heart of the lamentable quality of Britain's trade unions, and constitutes a terrible indictment of the labour movement, of governments of all political stripes, and of our educational system. Nobody has taught these people how to use power.

You may say that the union power exerted on this occasion was limited; it added to the grief of a

man already bowed by sorrow, but that is hardly comparable to the power wielded by an Ahasuerus or a Stalin. True, and fortunate, for in the selfish, irresponsible or downright wicked use of power, great oaks from little acorns grow. But slight though the power wielded by trade union officials may be, it is not altogether negligible, and in any case that is not my point; the important fact is that power may be used well or ill, positively or negatively, to further or to hamper the advance of humanity.

And nobody has ever told the British trade union movement that (The one man who might have done - George Woodcock, the most thoughtful and substantial of all modern TUC general secretaries - look quite consciously the disastrous decision not to attempt to lead the unions at all, and an opportunity was lost that may never recur.) I believe that training in the exercise of power is in essence training in moral quality, but it is not necessary to take so lofty a view; such training is also a means of teaching self-preservation, and if the union movement is not interested in discovering the difference between right and wrong, it ought at least to equip itself to learn what will, and what will not, enhance its own material interests. Yet it does not.

The American unions, which are much weaker than ours, do not make this mistake; the German ones, which are stronger than ours, do not make it either; the Japanese, which are of a different order altogether, would find the British attitude too bizarre to understand. So much the worse, your average Merthyr Tydfil gravedigger would reply, for a pack of bloody foreigners - a reply which might at first seem conclusive, until you notice that the workers in all three of those countries are very considerably better off than they are here, and if you are capable of believing that there is no direct connexion between the two conditions you must be Mr Heffer himself.

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Anne Sofer

The dark side of this free choice

There is a lot of talk in political circles these days about hanging. To most people I know in the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, such conversations feel very odd indeed. Although abolition effectively took place in 1964, the discussion and campaigning was at its most intense some years before, as described in the extract from the Keesler's autobiography in *The Times* last week.

It was really a 1950s issue, and many politicians now middle-aged will not have debated the matter seriously since their student days. For me it has an ironically nostalgic flashback quality as if we were crowning the Queen at Windsor or watching Sedgman win Wimbledon. Or believing, that enlightened reformer once gained was irreversible.

Suddenly, we start speculating about individual Conservative colleagues - not, as before, is he a full-blown monetarist or not, is he for or against the abolition of the GLC, where does he stand on Forrester Falklands, but simply, is he a hanger? And the question has that same grisly fascination the act itself has always had: voyeuristic, faintly obscene.

I recently asked a GLC Tory, a rather right-wing one, I thought, the question direct. He gave me a very long and sour glance, then said he was unable to answer the question without bitterness; he had been rejected by more parliamentary selection committees than he cared to remember because of his refusal to commit himself to voting for restoration. He had tried to evade it, he said, by saying he thought there should be a referendum, but he was not allowed to get away with that. He had to say, yes, he was an out-and-out hanger. And he could not. The same evening I heard a similar story about another very able, thoroughly Thatcherite young Conservative councillor.

If these stories are true, they are confirmation of what many of us have long suspected - that the Conservative Party support the hunger strikers! Let Tariq Ali join Deafy the NEC over Militant! Break the District Auditor! Boycott the Scamman Inquiry! Disrupt Parliament! Are Conservative associations going to start acting the same way?

One huge difference lies between them, and it is one we should all take very seriously. Whereas the *litmus* tests that left-wing activists choose are such as to lose votes by the million (just read the list above), Tory *litmus* tests are, far closer to public sentiment, those failures in hats and those local estate agents are no fools. They know the popular appeal of their harder-line attitudes - not just on hanging, but on immigration control and social security "fraud" as well.

It is an appeal to the darker side of human nature, the side that needs retribution and scapegoats and ritual cleansing, and it is an appeal that grows stronger in times of hardship and uncertainty. It's that we have to worry about most.

The author is SDP member of the GLC and ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

Gerald Kaufman

Tory cuts come out of the closet

During the general election campaign Labour spokesman warned the electorate that, behind the innocuous vacancies of the published Conservative manifesto, there lurked a hidden manifesto containing the Government's real, distasteful programme. Labour forecast that Mrs Thatcher was preparing to reduce the spending power of pensions and other benefits, to move towards dismantling the National Health Service, to cut dole payments in real terms and to damage the social sector by discriminatory reductions in public expenditure.

These accusations were indignantly denied by the Conservatives, and in the election, it seems by the voters too. Now, scarcely a month after polling, Labour is unashamedly placed to declare smugly: We always told you there was a hidden manifesto, didn't we?

One after another have come the ministerial announcements. First Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, told the House of Commons that, though inflation in November will be "around 6 per cent", retirement pensions and other benefits will be increased only by the May inflation figure, 3.7 per cent. Recipients will accordingly be tutored of £1.20 a week for a pensioner couple and 75p for a single pensioner.

Mr Fowler was a busy man. A week later he disclosed what he described as his growth plans for the NHS. These, in the terms in which he stated them, mildly encouragingly implied a real increase in expenditure for the next 10 years of 0.5 per cent per annum. This, however, was not guaranteed, but depended on the economy doing well enough to justify such munificence. It was also based on the assumption that the 0.5 per cent growth could be found from internal efficiency savings.

What is more, it completely ignored increased demand for the NHS: the rise in the number of the elderly as a proportion of the population means that simply to maintain the service requires a 0.7 per cent growth above the pay and prices index. So Mr Fowler's 0.5 per cent increase actually turns out to be a cut ranging between 0.7 per cent and 1.2 per cent per annum, with these reductions being kept within that level only if the economy performs well.

Then, last weekend, we had the egregious comments on unemploy-

Trolope's novels portray the corruption of power through domination by too few interests. Today we see the corruption of power through domination by too few opinions. In both the old political parties there are certain issues which activists now elevate into inflexible *litmus* tests of a candidate's all-round suitability.

The interesting thing about political *litmus* tests is that they are not used to assess the loyalty of political aspirants to party policy. The issues chosen are those that are outside, or even against, party policy, the issues local party activists regard as revealing the true colour, so to speak, of the candidate's soul. Is this person really one of us? The answer to this question, yes, or no, will tell us all.

Many *litmus* test questions (hanging in the Conservative Party, support for Sinn Fein in Labour) are edged with the taste of fear and violence: they are initiation rites, tests of political manhood.

The correct and winning answer will almost certainly be couched in terms that are contemptuous, if not outright abusive, of accepted wisdom on the subject, particularly if that accepted wisdom represents a cross-party consensus. "I'm not afraid to go in and change all that nonsense" is the right tone to adopt. It is necessary to sound blunt, abrasive and intolerant (as much like Rhodes Boyson or Dennis Skinner as possible). It is not necessary to know anything about the issue.

Now it is wholly right to have new MPs who are fearless catalysts of change. The problem is that the *litmus* test process is far more likely to produce craven conformists of a new sort: people ready to jump when somebody tells them to jump. During the last year I was in the Labour Party the instruction to jump was being given at shorter and shorter intervals, rather like a sadistic ringmaster going off his head. Support the hunger strikers! Let Tariq Ali join Deafy the NEC over Militant! Break the District Auditor! Boycott the Scamman Inquiry! Disrupt Parliament! Are Conservative associations going to start acting the same way?

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The author is SDP member of the GLC and ILEA for Camden, St Pancras North.

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سنة ١٤٠٤



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IN THE NAME OF GOD, STOP

amadan is now over, and Muslims around the world are celebrating the Id al-Fitr. But in Iraq and Iran there is not very much to celebrate. Those two Muslim countries continue to demonstrate their attachment to faith which supposedly they have in common by attempting to batter each other into submission. In a war which will soon have lasted three years more than two hundred thousand people are said to have been killed, and another three hundred thousand wounded or taken prisoner.

It is in every sense a war of attrition. A year ago Iraq, having liberated all but a few pockets of her own occupied territory, launched a massive thrust into southern Iraq, aimed at Basra. It failed spectacularly and since then the successive Iranian offensives have been much smaller-scale affairs. Iranian commanders have even prided themselves publicly, on occasion, on having achieved limited objectives while incurring few casualties. Although teenagers continue to be indoctrinated and packed off to the front, the systollahs seem to have become aware that parents, at least, are less than enthusiastic about seeing their progeny turned into martyrs in such numbers and at so early an age.

A few weeks ago, indeed, the Speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hojatoleslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, publicly acknowledged that the large-scale offensives had not been a great success and that attrition was now Iran's strategy. There can be little doubt that in such a war Iran has the advantage. For this there are two main reasons.

First, Iran has the larger population and more abundant resources of almost all kinds. Secondly, geography enables Iran to blockade Iraqi oil exports through the Gulf but not vice versa. Only a trickle of oil is getting out of Iraq through the pipeline to Turkey. But for financial support from Arab neighbours, and arms supplied almost free of charge by France, Iraq would long ago have been forced to surrender.

Even as it is, Iraq has difficulty paying for essential imports, and its industrial and social development programmes have been suspended *sine die*. Iran by contrast has an excellent credit rating and has lately relaxed controls on imports. British exports to Iran, for instance, are now actually higher than those to Iraq.

President Saddam Husain, desperately feeling the squeeze,

has been hitting out wildly in attempts to convince Iran that peace is in its interest too. The civilian population of Western Iran has been subjected to repeated missile attacks. Shipping in the vicinity of Iran's ports has also been hit, and attacks on Iranian oilfields are mainly responsible for the vast oil slick which is now polluting the Gulf and wreaking havoc, as the World Wildlife Fund reports, among its population of dolphins, turtles, fish, sea snakes and birds. It may even have exterminated the dugong or sea cow altogether.

Iran would be happy to have international teams come in and cap the leaking wells, but Iraq refuses to guarantee them safe passage unless there is an agreed ceasefire covering the whole area - which would presumably enable it to resume oil exports through the Gulf. Iran sees no reason to relax its grip on Iraq's oil continues to spill. The Koran, like the Book of Genesis, takes a firmly anthropocentric view of nature: fellow-creatures are there for man's use and enjoyment. But surely neither faith authorities human beings so to abuse their environment for the purpose of better destroying each other.

JUST CAUSE OR IMPEDIMENT

The Church of England has agonized for more than a decade about the remarriage of divorced people in church, with successive reports and debates leading it only gradually and painfully towards the beginnings of an agreed policy. The recommendations to go before the General Synod this week bear the marks of this process. They are designed to satisfy a broad range of opinion in the church, both to secure the necessary majority in the synod itself and to enable as many clergy as possible to operate them without offending their consciences.

The proposals envisage remarriage in church only after a thorough investigation of the circumstances of the previous marriage, on which a panel of advisers will make a judgement. It is not entirely clear what criteria the advisers will apply, though they can presumably be relied upon to detect by instinct really bad cases and really good ones. How they are to make fine distinctions in marginal cases is not so easy to see. In any event, an individual clergyman would still be entitled to decline to perform a second marriage, even after the bishop has announced

the formal dispensation from the earlier marriage vow.

No one could accuse the Church of England of making light of divorce, with such procedures as this, and if those who subject themselves to it detect in it a grudging approach, that does at least correspond to the church's general distaste. Such a couple might reasonably feel, however, that the pains and perils of marriage breakdown and separation, the trauma of divorce itself and subsequently of custody and property problems, followed in due course by new courtship, love and the fresh hope of a better marriage, were penance and satisfaction enough. They are unlikely to regard an ecclesiastical inquiry into past circumstances as a sensitive contribution to the future they face together, particularly as the procedure may include a public announcement of their special matrimonial status when the bans are read.

The church's policy towards them might have been shaped more pastorally, had there not been the over-riding need to devise procedures which would meet as many theological objections as possible. There is no

uniform theology of marriage in the Church of England, and therefore no uniform understanding of what happens when a marriage breaks down. Scriptural and Traditional conservatives find no support for the notion of Christian divorce in their respective deposits, and there is uncertainty about how the church should best demonstrate what it believes to be the Gospel in this matter.

The need for some means of discrimination between cases is underlined, however, by the Government's recently announced intention to shorten the minimum period between marriage and divorce. Were the church to decide to remarry all such applicants, it would find itself in an absurd position. Equally, however, this new proposal suggests that the church should start to discriminate in cases of first marriage, too, to avoid having to marry those who regard their commitment as binding them no more than a year and a day. All this suggests that the best test of suitability for church marriage is present seriousness, not past misdeeds. The latter should only be relevant as a factor in evaluating the former.

FRENCH HEADACHE IN CHAD

The latest fighting in Chad presents President Mitterrand with his worst African problem to date and could lead to the knottiest of his foreign policy entanglements. There is probably a grudging debate among the several centres of power that have traditionally woven French African policy together: at the Elysée the President's own *conseillers* and the often rather autonomous intelligence services; the Quai d'Orsay under M Cheysson; and the ruling Socialist Party, part of whose Third World lobby is intensely hostile to what it sees as the neo-colonialism of all recent French presidents. It is not that the fate of Chad has crucial strategic or economic implications, either for France or for the West. But French handling of the problem could be of great symbolic significance to Africa and to the rest of the world. To this M Mitterrand is clearly sensitive.

President Habré, the now increasingly beleaguered incumbent in Ndjameña, the Chad capital, has had chequered relations with France. In the 70s he was a leader of the northern-based insurrection against the regime then militarily backed by France. It was he who kidnapped and held the French ethnologist Mme Claude for over two years and murdered a French major sent to negotiate her release. But since last year, when his faction won recognition as government by right of conquest and control of the capital, the French have backed him heavily. His ousted rival, M Goukouni, then retired to the northern fastnesses of the

Tibesti mountains, once again receiving help from the Libyan President, Colonel Gaddafi, who has made no secret of his desire to secure a client government in Chad and to annex a northern slice of the country thought to contain uranium. M Goukouni, too, has had variable relations with France, which strove to wean him away from the Libyans during his brief tenure of office in Ndjameña. Now, however, he is tightly back in the Libyan embrace.

Both before and since Colonel Gaddafi's humiliation at the Organization of African Unity last month, when he was forced to concede the chairmanship he had never formally assumed, the Libyans have been massively increasing training and arms-supplies for M Goukouni, who last week captured Chad's major northern town and now appears to have gained the strategic eastern city of Abéché as well. So M Habré is beseeching France for greater help. The question for M Mitterrand is how far can he risk France once again being ensnared into "le guépier tchadien" (the Chad wasps' nest), as *Le Monde* calls it.

If M Goukouni were to defeat M Habré, it would be seen not just as a step towards the fulfilment of Colonel Gaddafi's dream of a pan-Islamic Saharan empire under his own evangelical tutelage; it would be viewed as a serious blow to French prestige. Furthermore, it would create great anxiety among many francophone states which have hitherto been reassured by the knowledge that France rarely lets

down an African friend, and retains the will as well as the capacity to intervene militarily if interests so dictate.

For that reason, the Presidents of Togo, Niger and the Ivory Coast recently flew to Paris to urge M Mitterrand not to let M Habré fall. The Americans, too, have been active behind the scenes, while the Sudanese and Egyptians are giving M Habré whatever arms they can muster. France, indeed, is sending considerable military supplies post haste. M Mitterrand says he will help "without limits" but strictly within the context of a cooperation agreement that rigorously excludes direct French fighting involvement "either to maintain order or to reestablish it". The nearest thing to direct French involvement canvassed at present is the despatch of Jaguar aircraft to harass the Goukouni forces, but even that degree of intervention is most unlikely.

It is thought that M Mitterrand, who has already visited eleven African states as president, is loath to abandon France's traditional role; M Cheysson is considered less emotional, perhaps more pragmatic; more doctrinaire. Socialists within the administration are fiercely against any African escapade smacking of Giscardien *hauteur* or Gaullist paternalism. Instead, the Quai is trying to rally other African countries to the Habré cause: Zairian troops have already been flown in. But will they be able to stem the Libyan tide? If not, an era of high-risk French assertiveness in Africa could be ending.

Open education

From Mr Norman Evans
Sir, In view of the letter from the Vice-Chancellor of the Open University which you published on June 28, commenting on the Further Education Unit's recent project report, *Curriculum Opportunity*, may I put the record straight as to what I wrote (para 112) under the heading "Experimental learning is not an open question". This commentary is an elaboration of the finding that this project has not identified, either by questioning or discussion, a single instance of systematic assessment or experiential

learning for accreditation towards admission to award-bearing courses in higher and further education. Some reasons are offered. Most of them are complex. One could be simpler: that instances do exist but were not discovered within the limited scope of the work. If such practices do indeed exist, information about them would be particularly valuable. But if this finding is valid, it means that the higher and further education system as a whole could be more flexible than it is, within current regulations.
And (para 89):
... Recognition that adults may know more than they think they know implies logically the development of policies based on that hypothesis and procedures designed to find out what they know: in

this inquiry there is none which meets any reasonable criteria. Dismaying, but true, that is the major finding of this report.
Curriculum Opportunity has several references to institutional policies for admitting mature students without formal educational qualifications. To quote one (para 60):
... universities have always admitted applicants without the generally required formal educational qualifications.
Yours faithfully,
NORMAN EVANS, Senior Fellow, Policy Studies Institute, 1/2 Castle Lane, SW1, July 1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Turns of the screw on death penalty

From Sir Arthur Peterson
Sir, The recurrent debates on the death penalty have added a new consideration to the familiar arguments on this subject. It seems likely that for many years to come the personal views of future Home Secretaries will be public knowledge. If the death penalty is restored and the Home Secretary remains responsible for advising on the Royal Prerogative (and no one has yet suggested an acceptable alternative), this will give an added turn of the screw to the strain which the Home Secretary has to bear in making decisions on particular cases and will make it even more certain that each one will be the subject of intense controversy.

When I was Private Secretary to Mr Chuter Ede in the period leading up to the first abolition of the death penalty I saw this trend developing, and it is easy to see how rapidly it would develop in the new situation and with the growth of the media, particularly television.

It seems likely that continued use of the prerogative for the expense of the penalty would weaken whatever value it has as a general deterrent.
Yours sincerely,
ARTHUR PETERSON,
Norton Mill House,
Newbury Lane,
Baldock, Hertfordshire,
July 8.

From Sir Ivo Rigby
Sir, Whatever may be his present view, it was that great judge, Lord Denning, a man full of wisdom, humanity and profound practical common sense, who said some years ago: "The ultimate justification of any punishment is that it is the emphatic denunciation by the community of a crime".
In these days, where brutal and vicious crime is an everyday fact of life, I venture to suggest that all too frequently far too great an emphasis is placed upon the clasp of rehabilitation and reformation and not sufficient upon punishment (let us underline that word) and retribution.

The ultimate justification of capital punishment for wilful and deliberate murder is that it is, I believe, the will of the vast majority of the peace-loving community of this country, as the emphatic denunciation by the community of the most serious of all crimes. If that, indeed, be true; then let it be

Irish dimension

From Mr B. F. O'Grady
Sir, As a graduate in history from an Irish university now resident in the UK, I read with interest the letter (July 2) which Professor J. C. Beckett and other eminent historians signed outlining their objections to the return of hanging.
These historians, many of whom are noted for a "revisionist" view of Irish history, have drawn attention to the fact that the execution of the leaders of the Dublin rebellion in 1916 led to the alienation of moderate opinion in Ireland and subsequent support for armed resistance to "The Royal Irish Constabulary and the Army. Yes, "martyrs" were created in 1916, but a combination of other factors, ie, the reign of terror unleashed by the "Black and Tans" and international support for the Irish nationalist cause, led to the eventual withdrawal of the British Forces from the South in 1922.

However, since the establishment of the Free State the Irish Government have often acted ruthlessly against any terrorist group who sought to overthrow the state. Mr Cosgrave, Eire's first Prime Minister, had scores of republican

terrorists executed during the 1920s and many others fled (including Michael Flannery) to the USA, where they found support for their uncompromising beliefs. De Valera also executed terrorists when he faced a similar threat to his power in the 1930s.

There is therefore a certain empathy between the citizens of Eire and those of the UK when it comes to dealing with terrorist groups. This is based on a maturity which the Irish have gained from participating in responsible government since 1922. The execution of a terrorist in Ulster for shooting a member of the security forces would, in my opinion, be seen by many in the South as a legitimate action by a sovereign government to maintain law and order in its own state.

While Professor Beckett and others have rightly warned of the perils inherent in executing Irish terrorists in Ulster it must also be realised that there is a body of opinion in the Republic which sees the return of hanging as a first step in lowering the level of crime in both Eire and the UK.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
B. F. O'GRADY,
1 Rosaline Road, Fulham, SW6.

different scene nowadays, the job of the professional MP is very onerous. It is more and more essential to put MPs on equal terms financially with the Civil Service and the Executive, so that Parliament can stop being a docile rubber stamp for any government and more a modern version of the one-party assembly.

This problem must be exercised once and for all, by putting it on a property paid basis. The present salary figure compares with £30,000 in France and £41,000 in Germany.
Yours faithfully,
HUGH DYKES,
House of Commons.

Parliamentary pay

From Mr Hugh Dykes, MP for Harrow East (Conservative)
Sir, What a silly, petulant and indeed rather bitter-sounding letter from Sir Woodrow Wyatt (July 6).
It is most unfortunate to suggest that MPs are "demanding up to a 30 per cent rise" in the way part-time "job". There is no question of the House demanding anything - these figures are based on the recommendations of an independent commission and MPs now have the difficult task of responding to these suggestions.

In the very demanding and

Minority rule

From Mr Barry Jones
Sir, Mr Arthur Scargill was heard on television today as saying: "I am not prepared to accept policies imposed by a government elected by a minority of the electorate."
Perhaps it should therefore be pointed out that all governments in Mr Scargill's lifetime have in fact been elected by such a minority.
On June 9 the 13,042,612 Conservative votes represented 30.8 per cent of the UK electorate -

Abolition of GLC

From Mr Alan Lee Williams
Sir, David Walker's excellent articles on the GLC (Spectrum, June 29) highlight the incontrovertible case in favour of the abolition of the GLC. As a former Labour member of Parliament I strongly favour the abolition of the GLC and the transfer of all existing duties and services to the London boroughs, with the exception of a number of strategic functions like those associated with land use, transportation (including highways) London transport and refuse disposal, which should be incorporated in a new authority covering the GLC area.

The overwhelming case for abolition does not lie simply in the GLC's obvious inefficiency, rampant duplication of services and lack of genuine strategic role, but in its almost total lack of concern for the plight of the private sector of industry.

Children's interests in divorce cases

From Mr John Eckelaar
Sir, The decision in *Richards v Richards* (Law Report, July 1) makes urgent a review of the divorce law. Suppose a marriage breaks down but the parties are unable to use (and unwilling to fake) the conditions for immediate divorce (adultery, "behaviour" or one of them for tactical reasons?) will not petition. Divorce can be had only after separation for two or five years.

If a husband, unwilling or unable to look after the children, refuses to leave the home, despite the more modest requirements for housing a single man, either the mother must stay with the children, or she must stay and live a "separate" life under one roof (hardly desirable or even possible where there are children) or be denied a divorce.

If she leaves, in order to satisfy the conditions for divorce, you apparently regard with equanimity (leading article, July 2) the fact that this may seriously compromise the children's welfare and that the courts should refuse to ameliorate their position.

In fact, the decision in *Richards* does not dictate this consequence, because it leaves open what is to be done if the needs of the children conflict with the interests of one adult vis-à-vis the other. This itself is unfortunate because these decisions will be left to the unguided discretion of judges in the same manner as the (much criticized) present maintenance law.

If the conflict is not resolved in accordance with the children's needs the hollowness of the protestations that, in divorce, the children should suffer the least is revealed.

The genuineness of allegiance to children's interests becomes apparent only when they no longer coincide with the adults' interests and perception but conflict with them. But children have no votes and form no pressure groups. They are rarely represented in divorce proceedings. They seldom write to *The Times*. Their interests are under a growing threat.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ECKELAAR,
Pembroke College,
Oxford,
July 4.

Stress on unemployed

From Miss Hilary Muggridge
Sir, The Medical Research Council, in a television programme on June 21, revealed that their recent research into the effects of unemployment seems to point to the conclusion that the longer a man is unemployed the more likely he is to attempt suicide. Apparently after about 18 months on the dole, men are 19 times more likely to try to take their own lives than men who are not unemployed.

Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister's, response to this disturbing revelation was as follows:
I think unemployment certainly creates stress in people, and I am quite sure it gives rise to an increased risk of health problems of various kinds. I don't think it's as simple as that. I think you can also find people suffering from mental illness,

Sale of venison

From Sir David Scott
Sir, Dr Fletcher (July 6) seems to imply that venison has no specific flavour of its own until it starts to putrefy. This is not so. It has a flavour as distinct, say, from beef as beef has from mutton or hare from rabbit. He also says that bullet wounds and inadequate bleeding produce a gamey flavour. This does not apply to park deer, almost always fallow, which are invariably killed by rifle shot in the head and have their throats cut immediately to promote bleeding. This method of slaughter has no effect on the flavour of the flesh.

He also suggests that the "fresh" deer flesh he sells from red deer killed at three years old has "the authentic taste enjoyed by our ancestors." This is improbable. In the first place the fallow deer of the old deer parks would have had a better flavour than that of red deer and any of our ancestors owning a deer park would have scorned to eat fresh three-year-old deer, when he could have six or seven-year-old

Heat of the moment

From his Honour Judge Curtis-Raleigh
Sir, On reading Lady Frances Berend's letter (July 2) about heating being off at the Broombury and Marylebone County Court on June 18 I thought at first that it must have been heat engendered by some brisk litigation, or something to do with the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo: but no, she was quite right.

There is a powerful machine which blows cold air into the courts in summer and hot air in winter. Following the example of a good many of the witnesses, the machine had become confused in its dates and was blowing hot air in June.

A visit by a mechanic put it right.
Yours faithfully,
NIGEL CURTIS-RALEIGH,
5 St Peter's Square, W6,
July 5.

In for a duck

From Mr R. S. Guck
Sir, I must take issue with the contents of your picture article (July 6) which refers to a recent ornithological oddity in Sussex.
Far from being the first "guck" known to science, I can assure you that our family has been thriving for generations, though I have no reason to believe that our origins lie in any sort of liaison such as that referred to in your article.
Yours faithfully,
R. S. GUCK,
63 York Road,
Montpelier, Bristol,
July 7.

divorce the man or woman on the Clapham omnibus would really welcome a detailed investigation into their conduct, ranging over the whole period of their marriage, in order to ascertain their respective contributions to the breakdown of their marriage. Inevitably, such investigations would involve the type of muddling common to divorce cases litigated prior to the divorce law reforms of the early 1970s and now associated with some American matrimonial disputes.

If it is indeed true that on divorce, large numbers of ordinary married people become vindictive, jealous and vengeful, a direction of the kind proposed would certainly encourage these passions rather than introduce a note of rationality into an emotionally explosive situation.
Yours faithfully,
JANE E. S. FORTIN,
King's College,
London University,
Strand, WC2,
July 3.

From Mr Robert A. E. Lippett
Sir, I refer to the article in your columns on June 14 concerning the ecumenical working party report *Children and Divorce*. On page 70, appendix D2 (iii) a psychotherapist states:

"Divorce is always a disaster for children... In divorce, there is no such thing as 'in the best interests of the child'... But quite the worst that can happen to a child is that he becomes involved in the long draw-out, often bitter and acrimonious battles that the parents engage in, both before and after the divorce... But unless all parties in a divorce genuinely want to find the least damaging solution, it is unlikely that any help can do more than mitigate the worst damage."

These remarks should call for greater humility and concern about the needs of children and young people in divorce. The report's recommendations are aimed at members of all the many professions and occupations who are likely to come into contact with a separating couple - the psychiatrist, social worker, lawyer and judge are all human beings and can themselves make mistakes and add to a child's sense of insecurity and guilt.

On page 12 section IV, "Guidelines suggested to local churches" the report states:

There is also a place for remembrance of children and young people affected by divorce in public worship, and perhaps July 26, the Feast of St Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the Sunday following, would be a suitable occasion.

I would ask your readers to pray for the children and young people who are caught up in the sadness, anger, torment and guilt that surrounds them.
Yours sincerely,
ROBERT A. E. LIPPELT,
27 Rockingham House,
Kings Weston Lane,
Kings Weston,
Bristol,
July 2.

and particularly depression, are more likely to be unemployed.

Nevertheless, unemployment is a considerable evil, and it does have some effects in raising people's stress and making them more vulnerable, even to suicide - that wouldn't be a wholly surprising conclusion.

Trying to convince the public that black is really white is not, of course, a skill wholly confined to our political masters, but in trying to dismiss serious research into an extremely disturbing problem in such a glib, superficial way, Mr Clarke reveals an attitude which can only be described as inadequate, inappropriate and indefensible. Jim Hacker and Sir Humphrey could not have done better.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY MUGGRIDGE,
2 Princess Road, NW1,
June 29.

bucks properly hung before cooking,

with a flavour far superior to that of three-year-old animals, and venison is better flavoured than veal and three-year-old mutton, alas no longer procurable, is than lamb.
Yours truly,
DAVID SCOTT,
Boughton House,
Kettering, Northamptonshire,
July 6.

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63 York Road,
Montpelier, Bristol,
July 7.

THE ARTS

The big houses are having to collaborate to beat the squeeze, writes Paul Griffiths

Beggar's opera?

Opera has always been an expensive art. It is not now to shrivel, special efforts are needed, and the nature of those efforts is becoming abundantly clear as the major houses announce their plans for next season. In Paris next January Die Entführung is to be mounted in a joint production with La Scala. At Covent Garden the evidence of economy is still more pronounced: of seven new productions, four will be borrowed from other theatres.

reciprocity with companies abroad, especially with Amsterdam, where the Queen of Spades that recently blazed on London was first seen, and with Geneva, whence the Coliseum was to be receiving Mirreille next season. However, a company of international standing like the Royal Opera, might reasonably feel wary of indulging in this trade. If the same productions were too often to be seen at Covent Garden and the Metropolitan, this would be a bore for certain world travellers; more importantly, it could dull the enthusiasm of the singers, destroy any sense of house style and lead, more than happens already, to performances that are routine and synthetic.

Covenant Garden has also tried doing almost without new productions: this season, partly by accident, there has only been one, Senjela, plus the borrowed Manon Lescaut. But this too will not do. An opera house's laurels are ever prone to fade and crumble. It will not keep an expert technical staff if it offers them no new challenges, and it will not keep an audience if all it can offer are occasional new voices in the same old clothes. There are already ancient Royal Opera productions which could well be retired. The prospect of the backlog becoming even greater is not one to ponder for long.

production was to be staged for just a single run. London keeping the sets and costumes. These are two of the possibilities. First a straight borrowing of the production and all its impedimenta, agreed either after the production has been seen (as with the San Francisco Esclarmonde next season at Covent Garden) or at an earlier stage, as happened in the case of Andrea Chénier. Second, a collaboration arranged in advance. But other mechanisms of working together are possible. The double bill of L'Eclair et les sortilèges and The Nightingale, which will be staged at Covent Garden in September, will have new scenery and costumes after the designs that David Hockney did for the Metropolitan, and John Dexter will be adapting his production for the Royal Opera House, just as Lotfi Mansouri will be coming to take charge of his Esclarmonde and Michael Hampe of his Andrea Chénier. Indeed, Covent Garden would always require that the original producer, designer and lighting designer, or their assistants, were available. Companies borrowing from the Royal Opera have to abide by the same condition.

What may still make collaboration awkward is an immense array of practical difficulties. The Covent Garden stage does not have facilities that productions in other theatres may assume: scenery cannot, for instance, be rolled off to the side. Also, our fire regulations tend to be more stringent than those of other countries, so that scenery may have to be reconstructed in other materials. There may also be problems quite simply in fitting a production made for one stage on to another.

PUBLISHING

Winning ways

I once met an author who had not won a literary award, at least not for decades. His name was Green, or Greene, something like that. Up to a point, I jest. Graham Greene has not yet won the Nobel Prize for Literature, although his name is banded about every year - not by the Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobels, as being in some short list, but he is probably regarded as too popular, too mainstream. Nor has he won what was, until the other day, the best-paying British prize, the Booker. Sensibly, he does not allow his publishers, the Bodley Head, to submit his work for prizes.

living and working in - you guessed - East Anglia. The Booker prize-money is £10,000, making it until a couple of months ago the most useful for an author to win with the Whitbread (three prizes of £3,000 each year) and the W.H. Smith (£2,500) runners-up. The late Betty Trask, a hitherto forgotten and out-of-print romantic novelist, has driven a coach and four through these sums, if not through their literary pretensions, by leaving a bequest of £400,000 for the best romantic novel by an author under 35. Might the young Jane Austen have been eligible, or George Eliot, or Charlotte and other Brontës? He, or most likely she, should receive not less than £40,000 each year.

Television Partying on the bloody front line

"Everything is a party," said the man in San Salvador, pausing in his dance to oblige the television crew. Other people were incredulous about a war: didn't know there was one. But there is, of course, and the party man and the others were just a way in to The Front Line Channel 4's documentary on El Salvador on Saturday night. We cut from the parties to a mortuary and the bloodied body of youth. No one knew who had shot him in Concepción Street where they have obviously learned to duck when the bangs start and which has several thriving funeral parlours to house those who fail to or who don't get the chance.

"I wonder if people are really interested in what actors want to do?" muses Connie Booth. "The trouble is I'm not good at thinking on my feet". She lacks, perhaps deliberately, the range of anecdotes and responses required of most show-business people who are periodically wheeled out by their publicists.

film but they only wanted to know about Fawlty Towers. That almost put me off interviews for good. But I was naive. I've come to terms with it now.

follow-up. In spite of her association with one of television's greatest comedy successes, she does not consider herself a comedienne.

Interview: Connie Booth One step at a time

"I'm not an intrinsically funny lady but I think I have a sense of humour - or perhaps just a sense of the ridiculous." Little Lies - an adaptation by Joseph George. Caruso of Pinero's The Magistrate - is again a comedy and again she does not see herself as the centre of the page. "There is humour in the part but I just have to play it my way and hope the audience laughs." It comes to London after an unusually long provincial tour which began inauspiciously with Dominic Guard having to pull out after he was beaten up on his way home from a football match at Fulham. He has rejoined the cast now but the incident evidently shook the cast.

Yet, in spite of that and the experience of The Housekeeper, she is regarding the opening with equanimity. About six years ago the play ran with reasonable success Off-Broad-



way. And, of course, there is Sir John Mills. "I still think of myself as a girl from the mid-West and here I am playing with John Mills. He's charming, generous and fun. His enthusiasm for the theatre is infectious. I was scared at first, working with an all-English cast - I've only really done two small English roles and I do still think of myself as an American. But Sir John was lovely." Has she thought about collaborating again with Cleeze? "We haven't talked about it. I don't think I'd like to. I very much want to finish my play. I'm a plodder - one step at a time." Bryan Appleyard

British literary prizes have proliferated over the last few years. It is in the lazy summer months that many are presented, on embarrasing little ceremonies, while authors or their publishers are preparing other submissions for the autumn round. The National Book League, which "administers" quite a few of the awards, arranged for Iris Murdoch, who in 1978 distributed to the needy most of her own Booker winnings - to hand out envelopes containing various sums. The fashionable Lisa T. Anbin de Teran received two prizes for her first novel, including the Somerset Maugham, worth £1,000. Mr Maugham intended his prize to enable authors under 35 to travel; Ms de Teran, who has lived in South America, must be one of the most travelled young British authors around. The Hawthornden, perhaps the most distinguished of all - judging by previous recipients - is for an author under 41, and is worth £500. Timothy Mo, who has just won it, should clearly resign all his other jobs immediately and write his third novel on the magnificent band on.

Literary prizes in this country, as for years has been the case in France, are bringing literature - as opposed to publishers' underpinning, underselling and hyping of new books - into disrepute. Most literary prizes are for fiction, and most of the prize-winning books are unread a year or two later. How many Booker or Whitbread or Smith (they tend to go for tradition, for class) prize-winners can you name, or have you read? Because most books are selected by more than one person - usually other writers - the winner of any prize is likely to be a compromise, a worthy, inoffensive, unexceptionable book rather than a firecracker, a subversive masterpiece. There is no harm in literary prizes provided that everybody understands they do not - cannot - go to "the best books". In spite of usually, the intentions of the donors, they are a device to help promote an otherwise improbable product. Posterity will decide which books should be read in decades to come. When Graham Greene alone (well, almost alone) is not winning prizes, it makes you wonder who is out of step. E. J. Craddock

Berkeley/Weber/Kurtag Cheltenham Festival

A week ago at the opening concert of this year's Cheltenham Festival Sir Lennox Berkeley was feted in 15 specially composed variations on the Reapers Chorus from his one-act opera, Ruth. Saturday night saw the last of three rare and memorable performances of the complete opera, first performed by the English Opera Group in 1956.

Stimulated by an almost ready-made tripartite scenario, and a formal libretto by Eric Crozier, Sir Lennox has written some of his most tersely inventive and richly singable music, bold in both detail and dramatic direction. The voice, techniques, and manner of Berkeley speak at their surest here, yet the spirit of Britten, working, as it were, through the medium of Crozier, is omnipresent, too, in the chamber orchestra, with its piano cantabile, in the ease of verbal inflections in the Grimes-like tension built between the outcast and the hostility of the tribe. For all its assurance, the work has a characteristic vulnerability within its sophistication that needs sensitive professional handling. David Penn and Chris Townsend, producing and designing, and Sir Charles Groves, conducting the North-east Sinfonia, provide just the right framework, among the milk-and-honey stone pillars of Tewkesbury Abbey for the chorus and a particularly strong cast of Anne Dawson as Naomi, Yvonne Lee as Ruth, Phillip Joll as the Head Reaper, and Richard Morton as Boaz. In passages as finely imagined as the first scene's farewell trio, Ruth and Boaz's duet, and in dramatic *l'airs de force* such as the six-part harvest celebration that precedes the marriage, it is only a pity that so much of the detail swims inaudibly in the abbey's bathroom acoustics.

Concerts

It was a pity, too, that the decision to stage the work lengthwise in the centre of the nave, presumably to give the most space for physical and acoustic manoeuvre, makes the audience on either side feel at times mere eavesdroppers.

Wagner, too, is being honoured at Cheltenham, and, as part of the festival's brief to present the complete works, soprano Rosemary Hardy with Jean Koerner, piano, performed a group of his songs on Friday morning at the Pittville Pump Room. It is always a pleasure to welcome Miss Hardy back from Sweden where she now lives, and to be reminded of her always warm-hearted communication of 20th century music. Moving from the shy, tentative Georg setting of Opus three and four to the evolving mobility and lyricism of Op 12, 23 and 25, each word was weighed and tasted against the flavour of Mr Koerner's minutely expressive piano part. Both the fertility of Miss Hardy's voice, stronger than ever in its extreme registers, and her deep sympathies with the Hungarian idiom, were revealed in the British premiere of György Kurtag's riveting "concerto for soprano and piano" The Sayings of Peter Bormenize. A highly individual and complex appropriation of Schoenbergian expressionism provides the musical response to a 16th-century mystical text, not dissimilar to John Donne in its relentless probing into the narrow of the spiritual subconscious. It was the considerable achievement of Miss Hardy and Mr Koerner to assimilate the extraordinary technical hazards of its four sections (Confession, Sin, Death, Spring) into a musical odyssey in which virtuosity seemed, in the end, a by-product of emotional and spiritual evolution.

Peter Donohoe Wigmore Hall

Oddly, two of the three works in Peter Donohoe's piano recital on Saturday night were transcriptions. Stravinsky's three-movement Petruska suite, made by the composer for Rubinstein, is familiar enough. Mr Donohoe nevertheless discharged it with a high-powered brilliance and range of colour that seemed to transcend all normal keyboard limitations. It was breathtaking.

Liszt's transcription of Beethoven's "Eroica" was a more quixotic undertaking. Unlike the operatic paraphrases, this is an flamboyant show-piece, but a faithful reproduction of what the composer actually wrote in all textual detail. And because playing into Beethoven's rather than the performer's hands, it is harder to bring off. Now again (though never in the splendid Scherzo) Mr Donohoe sounded over-insistent less than wholly successful in concealing that tunes meant to be sung were being struck by hammers, with one or two over-weighted, octave-doubled basses in climaxes. The funeral march brought occasional reminders of the piano's inability to make a crescendo on a sustained note. But the whole performance was still a *tour de force* in clarity and continuity of thematic thread. Beethoven's "Appassionata" did most to reaffirm the quite exceptional strength and breadth of Mr Donohoe's music-making, underpinned by rock-like rhythm. Even in the slow movement the unusual depth and fullness of his tone reminded me of Arrau. The finale, rightly unhurried in basic tempo, ended with an opening of the floodgates of elemental force. Yet nothing in the recital haunts my memory more than his exquisitely tender subtly inflected account of Brahms's A major Intermezzo, Op. 118, No 2, chosen as first encore.

LSO/Fischer Barbican Hall

The LSO's policy on repeating programmes during its Barbican series looks distinctly peculiar. Last week Rafael Kubelick completed his Brahms symphony cycle with Nos 3 and 4. That concert was given twice. Yet here, on Saturday night, was No 4 again, under a different conductor, Ivan Fischer; presumably too dissuading anyone who came earlier in the week from returning. (The same will happen again next Saturday when Claus Peter Flor will take over "Kubelick's" New World Symphony.)

The other work, however - Brahms's Violin Concerto with Boris Belkin - must have been rehearsed by Fischer himself for Thursday lunchtime's concert. His beat was strong, and his care in accompanying Belkin was considerable. But the soloist did not help. Belkin is the model of a modern violin virtuoso: a sleek, sweet tone as he soars high on the E string,figuration tossed off with confident abandon (and accuracy). But beneath the beautiful sound there is only more beautiful sound. In the central Adagio he was already introducing a delicately softened rallentando three bars after his entry, the pulse was continually slowed to make room for some felicity of decoration unrelated to the structure of the piece; and Brahms's invitation to a couple of bars of *crescendo* proved almost fatal. Oddly, the first movement produced almost equally frustrating interruptions to its progress, and I thought the coda (which is indicated *tranquillo*, not half speed) might stop altogether until Jack Brymer pushed it on from the clarinet desk. Only in the finale did Belkin and Fischer sustain a pace and a mood, and the result was stirring.

The Animals The Venue

Arranged as a clandestine warm-up to their impending American tour, Saturday night's event appears to have been the first collective performance by the five original Animals for 18 years. As such reunions go, it proved exemplary: the past was honoured, but the group's residual strengths were placed within a contemporary context both carefully plotted and enthusiastically executed.

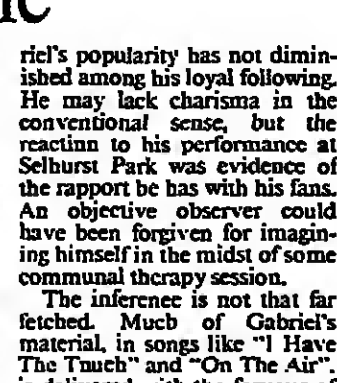
The Animals were among the most imposing groups of the great British wave which swept the world in the middle 1960s. In every measurable way they were at least the equals of the Rolling Stones, and in many respects their superiors. Where the Stones plodded through their uniquely complacent revolution, the Animals acted out a genuine volatility most obviously expressed in the erratic but hugely powerful singing of Eric Burdon. The last time I saw them was on a 1964 package show with Chuck Berry, Carl Perkins, the Nashville Teens and King-Size Taylor. It was the week that "House of the Rising Sun", their first big hit, was released, and they were thrilling, loud, implacable, highly strung. George had led loose on Carnaby Street. Burdon, Alan Price, Hilton Valentine, Chas Chandler and John Steel are all in their early forties now, but the 1983 model has a whiff of the same spirit. Four auxiliary musicians (on keyboards, saxophones, guitar and percussion) fattened the sound, but stepped back to allow the original quintet to recreate the sound of "Rising Sun", prefaced by Valentine's unforgettable guitar introduction. "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood", "I'm Crying", "We've Got to Get Out of This Place", "It's My Life", "Don't

Rock Animal magic

Bring Me Down" and "Bring it on Home to Me" were the other golden oldies, but these were massively outnumbered by a host of good new songs, faithful to the original idioms but boosted to the performance scale of the Rumour or the Asbury Jukes. I particularly enjoyed "The Night", "Hard Times", "Just Can't Get Enough" and Price's "No, Jubn", all beautifully arranged. The only things I missed were the sound of a genuine Hammond organ (Price concentrated on piano and used a synthesizer on "Rising Sun") and Valentine's legendary gin-glam shirts.

Richard Williams Gabriel: Intellectual rather than physical Peter Gabriel Crystal Palace Peter Gabriel is not an artist who has courted easy stardom since his departure from Genesis. Britain's most successful supergroup of the last decade. Indeed it is to Gabriel's credit that he preferred to replace the increasingly sterile fantasies of Genesis' pomp rock with a style more suited to his self-effacing character. Yet, despite a limited output of records and concerts, Gabriel's popularity has not diminished among his loyal following. He may lack charisma in the conventional sense, but the reaction to his performance at Selhurst Park was evidence of the rapport he has with his fans. An objective observer could have been forgiven for imagining himself in the midst of some communal therapy session. The inference is not that far fetched. Much of Gabriel's material, in songs like "I Have The Touch" and "On The Air", is delivered with the fervour of a healing shaman. Gabriel's subject matter and imagery draw heavily on Third World rituals and he is not afraid to change the mood of his show from the hard, angular rhythms of "Shock The Monkey" to the gentler hypnotic reflections of "Family Snapshot". Gabriel's is a stylised performance in that although he uses the stage well to illustrate the ideas his songs, he never implies that he is better than his audience. He is an intellectual rather than physical form of rock. Behind the singer a five piece band conveyed the appropriate shades of power and subtlety. The crowd were evidently delighted that Genesis drummer Phil Collins was there to bolster the rhythmic qualities of the songs. The dual drumming of Collins and Jerry Marotta working best in the immediately recognizable hit "Games Without Frontiers". While much of Gabriel's repertoire is not to my taste, it is impossible in deny that he obtains a wide atmospheric range and his importance as an influence on the synthesizer duos infusing the charts cannot be underestimated. Emphasizing his own humility was the climactic number Biko, a tribute to the murdered African. The proceeds of the concert are going to the anti-apartheid Lincoln Trust. Max Bell

Richard Williams



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Falcon FLIGHTS advertisement listing flight routes to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tampa, Miami, and New York with prices and contact information.

Advertisement for Kay and Dennis Jelliman, stating they are incurable and offering medical services at The Royal Hospital & Home for Incurables.

Advertisement for The Royal Hospital & Home for Incurables, detailing their services for incurable patients and providing contact information.

Advertisement for The Royal Hospital & Home for Incurables, including a form for requesting information and a list of services.

WALL STREET PRICES & COMMENT THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Stock Exchange Prices Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began July 4, Dealings End, July 15, Contango Day, July 18, Settlement Day, July 25.

Forward marginals are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

Main table of stock exchange prices with columns for company names, prices, and weekly changes. Includes sections for BRITISH FUNDS, MEDICINES, LONGS, COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, DOLLAR STOCKS, BANKS AND DISCOUNTS, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES, and COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Distillers profits may reflect debt crisis

With sales exceeding £1,000m a year, Distillers is a very good indicator of the effects of the developing world's ban on luxury goods, including whisky, in the wake of the international debt crisis.

The company reports its full-year figures on Thursday and there is a consensus that sales by volume may have declined in the last quarter, after a slight increase in the first half.

The stagnation of Scotch sales over the past few years is bad enough - Distillers closed 50 small distilleries in the first half - but when a prime market such as Venezuela slams the door, the gloom darkens.

Nevertheless, the weakness of sterling last year came to the rescue giving the company some substantial currency gains on its American business. The company also managed an 8.5 per cent price rise while cost inflation was only 7 per cent.

Analysts are expecting a 10 per cent rise in full-year profits to £194m, but are reserving judgement on trading because Mexico, Nigeria and Ecuador have also joined Venezuela in banning luxury goods.

Another company dependent on diplomatic activity outside its influence is Cable and Wireless, which reports full-year figures on Wednesday.

ECONOMIC VIEW

Fears over borrowing figures

Closer examination suggests a potentially substantial overrun on government spending and last month's figures may confirm this trend.

Also on today are last month's wholesale price indices, which are expected to show prices at the factory gate continuing to rise by about 7.5 per cent a year.

The progress of the real economy will be charted by Wednesday's figures for industrial production in May which one expects to show continuing recovery.

On Thursday come the details of last week's estimates of money supply growth in banking last month, which will show whether public or private sector borrowing was most to blame.

The retail price index for last month is published on Friday. Most analysts think the rate would remain unchanged from May's 3.7 per cent, or fall fractionally to its lowest level for the year, but the annual rate will be rising after negligible price increases over last summer.

The prospect of higher US interest rates with worries at home on the money supply is likely to keep the markets unsettled this week, though a rise in British interest rates is unlikely and not desired by the authorities.

Vertical sidebar containing various market news, including 'SHIPPING', 'MINES', 'INSURANCE', 'INVESTMENT TRUSTS', 'OIL', 'PROPERTY', and 'RUBBER'. Includes a small advertisement for 'WALL STREET' at the top.

Handwritten text at the bottom left corner: 'صدا من الاموال'

Proposed Advance Corporation Tax changes would penalize US multinationals

Retaliatory amendment spearheads campaign against unitary tax

By Michael Prest

A new campaign against the recently upheld right of American states to levy unitary taxation will be launched this week. A retaliatory amendment to the Finance Bill could result in American companies losing their British Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT) rebate and a shift note is on its way from Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to Washington.

These companies lobbied vigorously in Washington for the double taxation treaty between Britain and the United States, ratified in 1980. But ironically they could be the most prominent victims of the Commons amendment.

Unitary taxation is a system under which a business within its jurisdiction not on the profits it has earned, but on the size of its operations in that area. It argues that if a certain percentage of assets or staff is in

Government outlawing unitary taxation. But the relevant article 9 (4) of the treaty was knocked out in the Senate and there is a strong feeling in Whitehall that the US Government has failed since to make good its commitment.

The amendment is designed to bring pressure on the American Government to act before major British corporations find themselves faced with large backdated tax bills. Among the companies who have campaigned against unitary taxation are BAT Industries, National Westminster Bank, Forreco Minsep, Thorn-EMI and Charterhouse Japhet.

City Editor's Comment

Balancing act with weighty problems

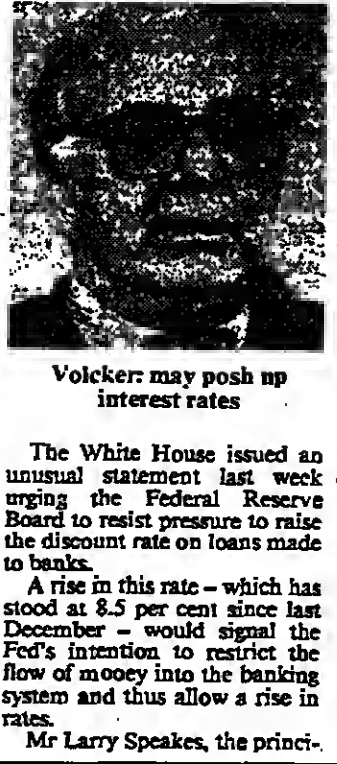
No sane person would covet the Chancellor of the Exchequer's job at the moment. Just as Mr Nigel Lawson and his colleagues enter the critical few weeks during which they could decide to cut aggregate government spending in 1984-85 below the White Paper target of £127,000m, the Government's natural supporters in the City are growing daily more apprehensive about how government debt will be funded.

Car spares sales drive to Moscow

Thirty British car component companies have been invited to Moscow in September to negotiate contracts with the Soviet vehicle-building industry. The companies are aiming to sell or license components and production methods. Russia is interested in diesel engines, dashboard instruments, and braking and clutch systems.

Fed set to challenge Reagan

The powerful open market committee, the US Federal Reserve Board, meets today to decide whether to endorse a controversial shift in monetary policy which would provoke a sharp rise in interest rates and slow the recovery.



Volcker may push up interest rates

Industrial policy attacked

Successive governments and the civil service have been roundly criticised in a report on the financing needs of British industry for their failure to recognize the importance of long term, low interest money.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Russia the success of a four-year-old agreement between the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and Czechoslovakia. Several British components sold direct, but mostly built under licence locally are included in Skodas sold abroad.

IMF's hardline debt plan is leaked

Payment of the critical second \$411m (£266m) tranche of the International Monetary Fund loan to Brazil is unlikely unless the Fund is convinced that targets not attained in the first half of this year will be met in the second, according to an internal-IMF study leaked to Brazil.

Evidence of the tough line being taken by the IMF will colour discussions at today's monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle. The gathering will include M Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the IMF,

as well as central bankers and possibly Scour Antonio Delim Netto, the Brazilian planning minister, who unexpectedly left Brazil on Friday.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: A Kershaw and Sons, Carcio Engineering Group, Hunterprint Group, Rank Organisation, Rank Precision Industrial Holdings.

New round in battle for Waddington

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher and majority owner of British Printing and Communications Corporation, has rolled his dice again in the takeover fight with the Monopoly games maker, John Waddington, as the prize.

Three weeks ago, Mr Maxwell emerged with a rival takeover bid for Waddington which topped the existing offer from Norion Opax, a smaller group. At the weekend Mr Maxwell issued a formal statement detailing why Waddington would be better under his management than with anyone else.

Business school forecasts modest growth

Britain 'on recovery course'

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent Britain's economic recovery will gather pace this year and continue for several more years at a modest rate, according to a forecast published in the London Business School Economic Outlook today.

LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL FORECASTS FOR ECONOMY

Table with 5 columns: Year (1982-1986) and 4 rows of economic indicators: Output growth %, Inflation %, Adult unemployment, m, Balance of payments, £m.

POWELL DUFFRYN Poised to benefit from recent investment

In recent years, the Powell Duffryn Group has maintained a high level of capital expenditure and has increased its geographical spread across the world while, at the same time, strengthening its broad base of UK activities.

Ministers in crisis talks

Representatives of the leading trading nations will meet informally at Leeds Castle, in Kent, on Thursday for a two-day discussion of world trade problems.

Advertisement for Powell Duffryn featuring a large illustration of a ship and a terminal, with text describing the company's services and contact information.

WALL STREET THE TIMES BUSINESS

Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-877 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 683.9 down 7.1 FT Gifs: 80.04 down 0.29 Bargains: 20.087 Datastream USM Leaders Index: 94.22 down 1.63 New York: Dow Jones Average: 1207.23 down 3.21 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9012.41 down 3.35 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index: 1036.42 up 3.03 Amsterdam: Index 148 down 1.4 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 982.40 down 3.9 Sydney: A O Index 614.8 up 3.4 Brussels: General Index 129.23 down 0.05 Paris: C A C Index 126.2 up 0.1 Zurich: S K A General 287.3 up 0.4

CURRENCIES

LONDON Sterling \$1.5410 up 40pts Index 85.3 up 0.2 DM 3.96 down 0.0050 Fr 11.9150 up 0.0250 Yen 372 up 1.50 Dollar Index 125.8 up 0.1 DM 2.5770 NEW YORK Sterling \$1.5450 INTERNATIONAL ECU 20.574210 SDR 20.689432

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 1/2 Finance houses base rate 10 1/2 Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 - 8 3/4 3 month interbank 10 - 9 1/4 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 - 10 1/4 3 month DM 5 1/2 - 5 1/4 3 month Fr 14 1/4 - 14 1/2 US rates: Bank prime rate 10.50 Fed funds 9 Treasury long bond 9 1/2 25/29 ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme, IV Average reference rate for interest period June 2 to July 5, 1983

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$422.75; pm \$426.00 close \$426.25 New York close: \$428 Krugerrand (per coin): \$438-440 (\$284.75-\$285.75) Sovereigns (new): \$89.50-100.50 (\$64.50-\$65.25) *excludes VAT.

Unlisted Securities Market review

Biomechanic's spectacular share debut pays dividends for the long wait

The 10 best performing USM shares

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company Name, Price at 1.1.83, Price at 30.6.83, % change. Lists top 10 performing unlisted securities.

The 10 worst performing USM shares

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Company Name, Price at 1.1.83, Price at 30.6.83, % change. Lists bottom 10 performing unlisted securities.

It has been quite a week for Mr Max Rippon, chairman of Biomechanics International, the group which uses his industrial expertise to dispose of other people's industrial assets...

development and investment group. However, with its varied spread of developments Cable has succeeded in catching the eye of the institutional investors...

figure slipped to a mere £291,000. Two years ago, Mr Paul Bion and his colleagues bought Technology for Business, the loss-making computer group...

Unlisted Securities

Large table listing various unlisted securities with columns for Capitalization, Company, Price, Dividend, and % P/E.

At the dividend, a 20% of a forecast dividend, a corrected price, a interim dividend payment, a price at subscription, a dividend and yield exclude a special dividend, a bid for company, a pre-emptive rights, a forecast earnings, a dividend distribution, a 7% rights, a 2% scrip or share split.

Moulinex advertisement. Text: At The Annual General Meeting held on 25 June 1983 under the chairmanship of Monsieur Mantelet all the resolutions put forward by the Board were adopted.

LASMO advertisement. Text: LASMO Eurofinance B.V. (Incorporated in The Netherlands with limited liability) Floating Rate Guaranteed Notes (due 1989) with Warrants to subscribe 13% Guaranteed Bonds due 1992.

VOLVO advertisement. Text: U.S. \$100,000,000 11% Notes Due 1988 Aktiebolaget Volvo. Paid as to 25 per cent. on 1st February, 1983.

Hapoalim International N.V. advertisement. Text: USS50,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes 1985. For the six months 12 July 1983 to 12 January 1984.

The bulk of Gable House's developments are situated in and around the St John's Wood area where the group is planning to open new offices shortly.

Mr Ray Horney, chairman of Rayford, will be forecasting pretax profits for the year ending September 30, of about £1.5m, but the group's profits performance has proved erratic and may be the reason County Bank has gone for a placing instead of an offer by tender.

Base Lending Rates. ABN Bank 9 1/2%, Barclays 9 1/2%, BCCI 9 1/2%, Consolidated Crd 9 1/2%, C. Hoare & Co 9 1/2%, Lloyds Bank 9 1/2%, Midland Bank 9 1/2%, Nat Westminster 9 1/2%, TSB 9 1/2%, Williams & Glyn's 9 1/2%.

APPOINTMENTS. THE SURVEY ASSOCIATION (ISA): Mr D. A. Francis, managing director, Hunting Surveys, has been elected president of the association for the year 1983/84.

Offshore and International Funds. Table listing various funds with columns for Name, Type, and Performance.

First Castle Electronics advertisement. Text: RESULTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st JANUARY 1983. After tax profits increase of 57%, Group turnover up 66% at £6.13 million.

American notabook

Expect a 'full stop' policy on money

The dollar briefly touched DM2.60 in Asia on Friday morning. By close, the September 1983 Deutschemark futures contract in New York had dropped to 39.17 cents, a far cry from the 43 cents for this contract as recently as mid-March.

The Swiss franc September 1983 contract fell to 47.49 cents on Friday, against the January peak of 54 cents. Less affected than these once-mighty German currencies were the pound and the yen.

By Friday's close, September 1983 pounds were \$1.555, against the 1983 peak of 1.660 reached in early June after the British election and the recovery in the world oil price.

Long-term yields have also risen. Mid-May, long-term treasuries were yielding 10.3-10.5 per cent. Today they are yielding 11.2 per cent.

Michael Clark. or responsible for fleet management, administration and personnel. Mr A. J. Butterwick, director, has been made joint managing director responsible for trades cooperation.

EUROBONDS PRICES. Table listing various Eurobonds with columns for Name, Price, and Yield.

FIXED-INTEREST STOCKS. Table listing various stocks with columns for Name, Price, and Yield.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION. Denny's International N.V. a Netherlands Antilles corporation (now Denny's International, Inc. a California corporation).

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

Kelly in overall lead as race goes into the great unknown

From John Willcockson, Pau

On a day when the thermometer touched 100 degrees in the scorching heat of the pine trees in the Landes Forest, Sean Kelly sent our temperatures rising even more by taking the leader's yellow jersey in the Tour de France. He is only the second Irish rider in the Tour's 80-year history to take the lead, winning it with a dramatic sprint in the Place de Verdun, where 12 months ago he gained his only stage win of the 1982 Tour.

Yesterday, the ninth stage of this year's race had been won by Philippe Chevallier, of France, more than two minutes earlier when 116 riders streamed into Pau for a lap and a half of the town's main square.

"I knew the yellow jersey was there for the taking," said a delighted Kelly two minutes later. Before the sprint he had moved to within nine seconds of the overnight leader, Kim Anderson, of Denmark, after picking up three time bonuses during the long day from Bordeaux.

Chevallier had pocketed the winner's bonus, which left 20 and 10 seconds for the next two finishers. Coming into town, a Dutchman, Gerard Veldscholten, had nipped away, arriving 12 sec before the rest, which meant that Kelly had to win the bunch sprint to achieve his objective.

With a lap remaining, he was comfortably holding third place in the fast-moving line, and he launched his sprint from this position down the finishing straight, with Etienne de Wilde of Belgium challenging him all the way.

CYCLING: TOUR DE FRANCE



Kelly with the laurels of leadership

the yellow jersey for at least one day. You might not ever get the chance again in your life."

What faces Kelly today is the great unknown: the giant mountain stage of 200 kilometres, crossing the highest roads in this Tour, the Tourmalet, as well as the Aubisque, Aspin and Peyresourde passes on the mile high Route des Pyrénées.

Now that the lead has been taken by Kelly, exactly 20 years after Seamus Elliott achieved the same honour - how long can he retain it? "I might lose it tomorrow," predicted the 27-year-old from Carrick-on-Suir. "I might lose a lot of time in the mountains, so I had to make sure that I wore

the Commonweath bronze medals Chris McClellan, and Graham Williamson, who are currently at the World Student Games, have also qualified at 800m. Padilla who was the World Student Games 5,000m champion in 1981, looked so easy in winning the 3,000m in 7:55.84, the fifth fastest time ever, that he is clearly going to be among the 5,000m favourites in Helsinki.

If Padilla's compatriot, Steve Scott, continues to be as decisive in his finishing as he was in the mile that he won in 3:49.49, then he may yet prove to be the great middle distance runner that he keeps telling us he is.

Hugh Jones, of Ranelagh who has never lost a marathon and is a possible medal winner at Helsinki, caused some concern after winning the 10-mile road race, sponsored by Lada, at Atrincham yesterday. Although success came easily for Jones with a 500 yards triumph in 50min 5sec over another former A.A.A. title holder, Jeff Norman, Atrincham, the analysis of his performance in the mile, both of which were operated on eight months ago for Achilles trouble which forced him to withdraw from the European championships in Athens last September.

Result: 1. M. Hiron (Preston), 50min 5sec; 2. J. Norman (Atrincham), 51:44; 3. M. Firth (Hendon), 52:5.

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Prior casts shadow over vote on hanging

Continued from page 1

concerned they would be more inclined to remain silent. He went on: "The valuable information and evidence which has recently begun to flow from converted terrorists, sometimes described as super-grasses, would be jeopardized if people knew their former colleagues might hang."

Mr Prior said that far from deterring terrorism, executions would lead to more acts of vengeance, killings and atrocities against members of the security forces and others on a substantial scale. He said that after opposing capital punishment for many years he had voted for the return of the death penalty for terrorists in 1975, but recognized that within a short time this was a "mistaken and emotional response".

Long before he was closely associated with the affairs of Northern Ireland he had reverted to his former position. The return of hanging would give the IRA more chances to use the skill they had demonstrated at turning terrorists into martyrs and drawing strength and support from executions.

He said the statistics showed why Northern Ireland considerations were crucial. If capital punishment had existed for terrorist murder during the past six years there would have been 19 cases in Northern Ireland for every one in England and Wales.

Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday it would be a disastrous mistake to bring back the death penalty in Britain. It would lead to violence and death in Northern Ireland (our Dublin Correspondent writes).

Joe Cahill, former IRA leader, once reprieved only three days before his execution, said that the reintroduction of hanging would be no deterrent to "freedom fighters".

If capital punishment is reintroduced, prison governors strongly against will resign from the service, Mr Brittan was told in a letter from the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

As forecast in The Times last Monday, "the vast majority of our members are voicing the gravest reservations".

Moral majority, page 10 Letters, page 11 Runcie challenge, page 12

Hanging: The fundamental arguments

By Richard Evans

The House of Commons will decide on Wednesday - after an increasingly vociferous public debate - whether to restore capital punishment 14 years after its abolition.

According to all the recent surveys the outcome will be very close and could rest with a small group of MPs who have yet to make up their minds, or who have not disclosed their intentions.

According to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, public opinion will play a crucial role in the Commons debate. The wide spread of views on hanging that will be enunciated in Parliament have been well rehearsed in recent weeks, with the Church judiciary, police, prison officers and penal reform groups among those who have lobbied MPs.

In the run-up to the crucial debate these are some of the arguments which have been expressed - and on which MPs will have to decide.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher (during the election campaign)

- I believe a majority of people in this country would vote for the restoration of the death penalty, I, too, would do that, and have always done so when it comes up in Parliament, because I believe there are some people, with guns and weapons, who would be determined to shoot their way out of trouble but who would not do so if there was a death penalty.

- We have gone too far for capital punishment to be of any help now. The death penalty never once acted as a deterrent in all the jobs I carried out. If an IRA terrorist were found guilty and executed, how many innocent people would then be killed for revenge? More terrorists could be caught and executed and it would go on. I don't think an eye for an eye works anymore.

- In all I considered 12 cases given the death sentence. Six were reprieved and six went ahead. The moment of execution wasn't the most intense, rather the actual signing of the document.

As Home Secretary I didn't shirk my duty and I think one person - rather than a committee - should be responsible for such decisions if that is the law of the land. But during my term of office, my opinions on the merits of hanging changed enormously.



Mr Roy Hattersley Shadow Home Secretary

- I am opposed to the return of capital punishment - opposed in principle and opposed without reservation. The state does not possess the moral right to take the life of a man or woman. Even if the death penalty were a deterrent, I would be opposed to its reintroduction, but there is no conclusive evidence to support the view that a return to judicial execution would reduce either the murder rate or the number of violent crimes.



Sir Robert Mark Former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police

- restoration of the death penalty would make it harder to convict criminals: if capital punishment meant that unanimous jury verdicts were to be the only acceptable verdicts again the consequences for maintaining law and order would be disastrous. The way to reduce deliberate crime is not the severity of sentence but the probability of being caught and convicted.



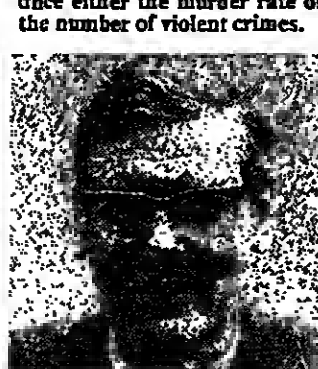
Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC Chairman, Howard League for Penal Reform

- No causal link has been proved between the abolition in 1969 and the murder rate. No experience has shown that hanging had a deterrent effect. I don't wish to see the UK as the only country in Western Europe retaining the death penalty. This extreme penal sanction should not be considered ever as a peace time measure.



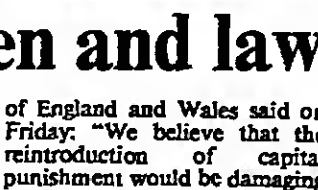
Lord Brooke of Cumnor Conservative Home Secretary from 1962 to 1964

I was the last Home Secretary to consider death sentences. Before I took office I thought hanging was a uniquely powerful deterrent. After two years, I found it quite ineffective.



Mr Albert Pierrepont former hangman

- The overwhelming view of the police service is that capital punishment should be restored for murder. We accept there are degrees of murder and we are not saying all persons convicted of homicide should suffer the death penalty. It is increasingly likely that society will be empowered to decide that, in some cases, the only adequate punishment is the death penalty.



Dr John Habgood, new Archbishop of York

- I very much hope the House of Commons will decisively reject hanging. I can understand the pressures that lead people to want it. But I believe that deliberately to kill people in cold blood - and that is what hanging is - is dehumanising to all involved. I don't believe that hanging will in the least diminish the perils of terrorism and I believe that terrorists thrive on martyrs.



Mr Peter Tanner, Police Federation secretary

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Mr Sidney Powell Secretary, Society of Civil and Public Servants

- Hanging would not deter terrorists who would feel they were dying for a cause and might even welcome martyrdom. While a prospect of hanging might convince some people not to carry arms, those who did so would not be put off using them, in my opinion. In my 36 years' service in the prisons I have been present at several executions. But that doesn't mean I found it a useful deterrent.



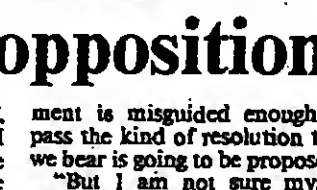
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Letter from Kampala

Bats and discos in the tropical night

The sound of nocturnal gunfire that used to echo round Kampala a year or two ago is gone, but the discotheques and bats ensure that sleepless nights persist.

The discos operate mainly at weekends, and go on well into the early morning hours. They have efficient equipment, and the volume at which it is operated makes the music clearly audible for half a mile or more in the otherwise still tropical night.

The bats - enormous African fruit bats with wingspan of around 2ft - weigh down the trees in parts of central Kampala. During the day their squeaking fills the air, but dies down at dusk when they take off in their hundreds of thousands and head across the city for some unknown destination.

The bats start to return to their roosts around 4am, and the noise of their squeaking takes over soon after the discos close.

No one seems to know why they have invaded central Kampala. They appear to have moved in in the last few months, and now festoon the branches of the trees which formerly housed some of Uganda's colourful birds. They are no substitute for the birds, unless you happen to be a bat lover.

In many other respects, Kampala is now a much easier place to live in, although there are problems. Both Kenya Airways and Uganda Airlines fly in here from Nairobi, but their tickets are not interchangeable, and there is a serious shortage of hotel accommodation because the 300-room Apollo Hotel has been closed for the last couple of years awaiting rehabilitation.

No one seems to know when the Apollo Hotel, 16 storeys high and set on an imposing site overlooking the centre of the city, will again open its doors for guests. In the meantime, the nearby Imperial and Speke Hotels are operating, but are frequently full.

Securing a hotel room does not end one's problems. Sometimes there is a trickle of water from the shower in the bathroom, but often there is no water at all. However, the management have thoughtfully provided a bucket of water in each bathroom, and a bottle or two of water alongside the washbasin in the bedroom.

Many Ugandans do not want to see a mass return of Asians to their country, and are unhappy about the prospect. But it looks like being many months before decisions can be expected on the Asian's applications and nobody knows whether they will eventually accept the terms on which their property may be offered back to them. In the meantime, Ugandans continue to occupy former Asian shops, offices and houses.

Charles Harrison

Churchmen and lawyers voice opposition

The leading Christian churches in Britain have come out against capital punishment. The British Council of Churches, in a letter to MPs expressing its "total opposition", says: "Christians revere and respect all human life as God's gift. The judicial taking of life as a penalty for murder does not enhance the sacredness of human life but further devalues it."

Many lawyers, too, oppose the restoration of the death penalty. Mr Richard Scott, QC, chairman of the Bar, said: "I find myself unable to believe any such legislation would be put into effect; it is a relic of the past." Mr Michael Hill, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, said last week: "Theoretically, as long as I practise as a barrister, I will have to accept the instructions for prosecution or defence in a capital murder case, if Parliament is misguided enough to pass the kind of resolution that we hear is going to be proposed. But I am not sure myself whether, when the crunch comes, I would be able to maintain that theoretical view."

Mr Charles Oxley, chairman of the Campaign for Law and Order, said: "My support is based entirely on a Christian belief and not on the deterrent theory, even though I think there's some truth in that."

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements: Princess Anne opens the new extension to the Sixth Form Centre, Folkestone College, Suffolk, 11.30; visits Haverrhill Meat Products factory Suffolk, 3. Prince Andrew opens the Falkland Islands section of the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset, 10.30.

New exhibitions

Andy Warhol: portrait screenprints, Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until July 31).

The Glasgow Tram: 21 Years After

(from today until Oct 30); and Road Safety Posters of the World; (until Sept 30); both at Museum of Transport, 35 Albert Drive, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5.

Design for Living

(until Aug 6); and Welsh Opera Photography 1983 from the Photogallery, Cardiff, (until Aug 13); both at Carmarthen Museum, Aberglwyf, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30.

The History of Lancaster's Old Town Hall

and Market Square, City Museum, Market Square, Lancaster; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until Sept 3).

Exhibitions in progress

Town and Gown - 400 Years of University of Edinburgh, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (until July 30). Great American Prints - Whistler to Warhol, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester University, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10-9, closed Sun (until Sept 10). Paintings, prints and sculpture by contemporary artists, Silk Top Hat Gallery, 4 Quality Square, Ludlow, Shropshire; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Tues and Sun (ends today). Piano recital by Anna Markland, Chichester Cathedral, 7.30. Organ recital by Paul Wright, Coventry Cathedral, 1.05. York Early Music Festival: 15th Century English and Italian Music, Landini Consort, Guildhall, York, 8. Concert by Choir of Kings College Cambridge, Christ's Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8. Organ recital by Gillian Dunning, Parish Church of St John the Baptist, Armitage, Rugby, Staffs, 7.30.

Anniversaries

Births: Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland 1306-29, 1274; John Quincy Adams, 6th president of the USA 1825-29, Quincy, Massachusetts, 1767; Dennis William Ernest Healey, poet and critic, Woking, Surrey 1930; Gertrude Lasker, traveler, Bagdad, 1926; Alfred Dreyfus, Paris, 1859; George Gershwin, Hollywood, 1927.

National Day

Mongolia, from where Genghis Khan set out to conquer China and much of Asia in the early 13th century, today celebrates the anniversary of its establishment as a Communist state 59 years ago. The Mongolians thus became the second people in the world, after the Russians, to found a Communist state.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Proceedings on the International Monetary Arrangements Bill and Companies (Beneficial Interests) Bill. Greater London Council (Money) Bill, second reading.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 8V1, 702424 (the winner comes from the London Borough of Brent); £50,000: 15TN, 974125 (Birmingham); £25,000: 23RW, 724725 (Kent).

City Festival

For details of the City of London Festival, two weeks of musical and cultural events taking place in historical buildings of the city, call the festival box office 01-236 2801.

Nature notes

Young magpies already have tails as long as their wings. In damp, damp places they will run at a flock of pigeons and send them flying. They still beg for food, calling harshly and fluttering their wings. House-martins fly tirelessly round the roof-top; the glossy-blue breast birds have been joined by the juveniles, who have a distinctly browner tinge. All the family roosts in the small mud nest at night. Goldfinches come down to the ground to feed on the white breadheads of Oxford ragwort; bullfinches are on the tall red docks. The ground is sticky under the lime-trees; the minute aphids that feed on the leaves coat them with a honey-dew that slowly drips off. Ladybirds come to the limes to feed on the aphids; bees come for the rich nectar in the lime-flowers. Under horse-chestnut trees, the grass is covered with embryo fruit that has been knocked off by the thunderstorms. Three spectacular wild flowers are just coming out: needle-leaved bellflower with its white buds and spiky violet trumpet, and two first willowherbs - roscey willowherb in pale pink spires, and great hairy willowherb, "codlins and cream", in purple-pink clumps that are often six feet tall. DJM

Folklife Register

The Devvo Folklife Register is at present gathering information on herbaria in Devon, including local superstitions and customs involving plants and trees, and would be pleased to hear from anyone with a contribution to make. Contact Anne-Marie LaPort, Rousham House Museum, Castle Street, Exeter.

Travellers cheques

Travellers cheques are to go on sale from today at 20,000 post offices throughout the country. This new service is provided by National Girobank and Thomas Cook Travel Agents.

The pound

Australia \$ 1.54 1.75
Austria Sch 29.00 27.45
Belgium Fr 82.50 78.50
Canada \$ 1.56 1.88
Denmark Kr 14.75 14.05
Finland Mkk 8.98 8.48
France Fr 12.25 11.75
Germany DM 1.41 1.31
Greece Dr 137.00 127.00
Hongkong \$ 11.40 10.75
Ireland Pt 1.30 1.24
Italy Lira 2430.00 2310.00
Japan Yen 390.00 378.00
Netherlands Gld 4.60 4.38
Norway Kr 11.65 11.10
Portugal Esc 183.80 172.00
Spain Ptas 166.64 159.52
South Africa Rd 2.10 2.05
Spain Ptas 227.50 216.50
Sweden Kr 12.29 11.69
Switzerland Fr 3.40 3.23
USA \$ 1.58 1.53
Yugoslavia Dnr 141.50 133.50

Roads

London and South-east: A307: Petersham Road, Richmond, closed S of Hill Street junction. A307: Roadworks on Staines by-pass between Stanwell Road and Wraybury roundabout. A34: Roadworks on East Ley by-pass N of Newbury. Midlands and East Angles: M6: Lane closures between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsall and Cannock). A1: Lane closures S of Blythe at Rauby, Nottinghamshire. A6: Temporary lights at Rowley, Derbyshire. North: M6: Lane closures between junctions 36 and 38 (A65 and A685 (Appley)). A566: West-bound diversion at Carrington, Stockport, Greater Manchester. M1: Lane closures between Corvay and Colwyn Bay, A449: Lane closures N of Crumlin, Gwent. Scotland: A8: Lane closures on Princes Street, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 4. A96: Lane closures on High Street, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. A6091: Roadworks today on High Street, Melrose, Borders.

Weather

The anticyclone centred to NE of Scotland will be slow-moving. London, central S, central N England, Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry, hazy showers with a clearance of early rain and low cloud with NE, light or moderate; max temp 27 to 29C (81 to 84F). SE England, East Angles: Dry, dull and misty at first, becoming sunny inland but low cloud persisting near coasts. W, SW England, central Highlands, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, perhaps an isolated shower; wind E, light or moderate; max temp 27 to 29C (81 to 84F). NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: Dull and misty, sunny intervals developing inland with light rain; max temp 15 to 22C (59 to 72F), hot in sunnier inland parts. Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland: Dry, sunny periods; wind variable, light; max temp 21 to 23C (70 to 73F). N Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Fog and low cloud persisting in places, sunny intervals inland; wind variable, light; max temp 14 to 16C (57 to 61F). Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Mainly dry and sunny but thunderstorms in S; coastal fog patches; hot, but cooler near coast. SEA PASSAGE: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E, Wind NE to E, light or moderate, occasionally fresh in Dover Strait; S, moderate to strong, SE times in Dover Strait. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind E, moderate or fresh in S, moderate in N; sea slight in moderate in S.

Ferry dispute

Ferry services run by Townsend Thoresen between Folkestone and Zeebrugge between Larne and Northern Ireland and Cairnryan in Scotland are cancelled again today because of a union dispute. For latest information call Traveltime: 01-246 8032 or the operators on High Street, Melrose, Borders.

The papers

The Government's recently announced package of spending cuts came under attack in both The Sunday Times and The Observer yesterday. Both newspapers accuse the Government, and Mrs Thatcher in particular, of "political tinkering" with last February's public expenditure which indicated a higher level of spending than was actually being planned. The Sunday Times said the Prime Minister had always espoused the virtues of honesty and consistency, and the fact that she is now being "caught red-handed, fine-tuning the economy to the Tories' political advantage, sticks in the throat". According to The Observer the spending cuts left the Government with "legions of angry" who are now being "caught red-handed" by the Sunday Telegraph declared itself to be on balance against the return of the death penalty, although "neither the prisons, nor the forces of law and order... can be deemed adequate today".

London

Yesterday's Temp: max 8 to 8 pm, 27C (81F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 16C (61F). Sun: 8 pm, 91 per cent; Rain: 24C to 6 pm, 61 per cent; 6 pm to 6 am, 50 per cent; 6 am to 6 pm, 100 per cent; max 24C (75F); min 10C (50F); wind: 10 to 15 mph; 10 to 15 mph; 10 to 15 mph; 10 to 15 mph.

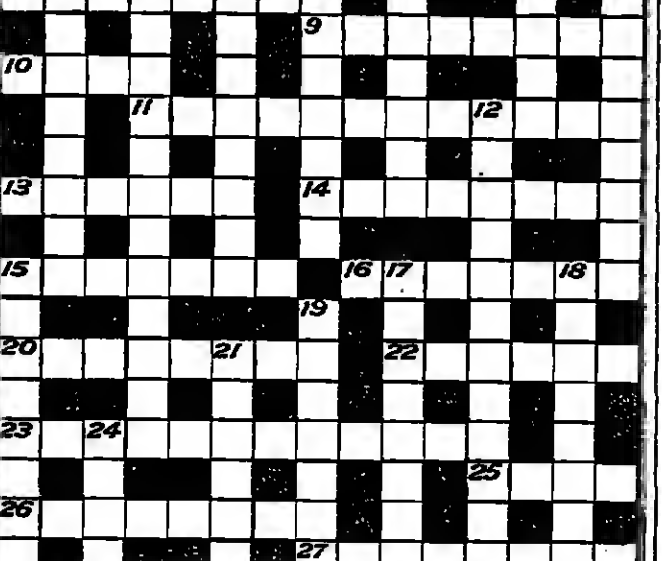
Highest and lowest

Yesterday's Highest dry temp: Vandy, 32C (90F); Lowest dry temp: Blyth, 14C (57F); Highest rain temp: Gwent, 14.5C (58.1F); Lowest rain temp: Gwent, 14.5C (58.1F); Highest snow temp: Gwent, 14.5C (58.1F); Lowest snow temp: Gwent, 14.5C (58.1F).

Pollen forecast

For today's London recording call British Telecom's Weatherline: 01-246 8091, which is updated each morning at 10.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,178



- ACROSS 1 Fresh backing to port in Buckinghamshire (8). 5 Water from the Eden river? (5,3). 10 The seven acts of Jacques (4). 11 Musician gets wine to carry in - it's distributed by the leader (12). 13 The ugly sister who turned to sculpture? (6). 14 Herb and Jack continue to tease (8). 15 A second heart? No trouble (7). 16 Cheat is a bestial person - holds back £500 (7). 20 A blow for a Syrian, perhaps (8). 22 Scene-shifter meets a Roman philosopher (16). 23 Chafers for fishermen? (12). 25 Priests pray for Anthea, doubtless (4). 26 Talk with many about poetry (8). 27 Sinks again as the river goes by (8).

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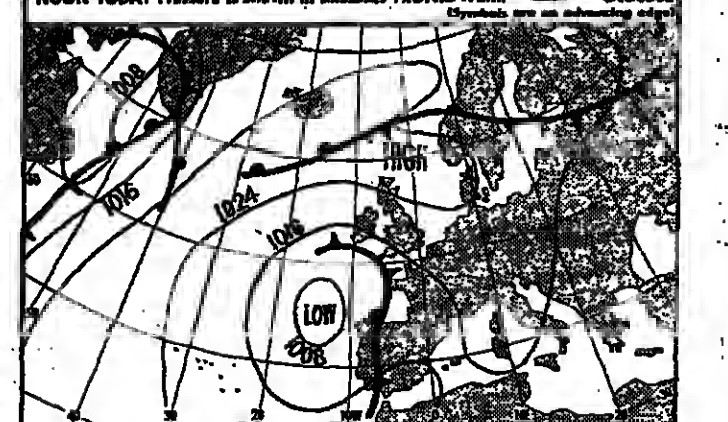
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The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,177 will appear next Saturday.

Weather



High tides

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, MT. Locations include London Bridge, Aberdeen, Belfast, etc.

Around Britain

Table with columns for location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Locations include St Andrews, Scarborough, London, etc.

Abroad

Table with columns for location, Sun, Rain, Max, Min. Locations include Athens, Copenhagen, Helsinki, etc.

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